

FREE  
GUIDE

# 2003 Guide to NSW National Parks

**Discover, explore,  
experience ...**

- 193 parks and reserves
- highlights and activities
- how to get there
- Aboriginal art and culture
- camping and bushwalks
- wheelchair access





# Contents

Welcome to this year's guide, your first step to exploring parks and reserves in your area or around the state. Maps of New South Wales and each region will help you find the park you're looking for, and individual entries for 193 protected areas outline what you can see and do and how to get there. Wander through a rainforest, ride a white-water river, stroll along an unspoiled beach or enjoy a little open space in one of the city parks — there's a park to suit you.

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Full map of NSW showing park locations

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## Northern Rivers

The north-eastern corner of NSW is famous for rainforests, long sandy beaches and the vast extinct volcano centred around Mount Warning.



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## New England Tablelands

In the north of the state on a high plateau, the tablelands are an area of wild rivers, tall forests and granite gorges.



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## Hunter & Mid North Coast

This region stretches inland more than 100 km, encompassing some of Australia's largest coastal waterways, huge rolling dunes, rainforest wilderness, sheer cliffs and plunging waterfalls.



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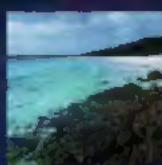


## Sydney & Surrounds

From Sydney Harbour to the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park, Sydney's parks and reserves offer a diverse range of bushland, walks and wonderful views.



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## South Coast & Highlands

The parks of the southern escarpment stretch in an almost unbroken line from Nowra to the Victorian border. Coastal parks protect waterways and estuaries, while further inland Australia's largest alpine area offers mountain wilderness and winter snowfields.



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## Central NSW

The centre of the state features intriguing rock formations, old goldmining areas and islands of rugged bush in the middle of farm lands.



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## Outback NSW

Lakes, rivers and spectacular gorges relieve the outback's stark desert landscape, and the region is rich in Aboriginal and colonial cultural sites.



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Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. The NPWS welcomes suggestions for correction and improvement. Write to: The Publications Manager, Education and Community Programs, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220. The NPWS cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Note that all fees mentioned in this guide are correct as at November 2002 but may be subject to change.

Our cover photo: Behind Crystal Shower Falls, Dorrigo National Park (Craig Fardell/NPWS).

Illustrations: Yellow-bellied glider, eastern horseshoe bat (A. Bowman); Green and golden bell frog, little penguin, bogong moth, platypus, Caley's grevillea, short-beaked echidna, yellow-billed spoonbill, triggerplant (A. Bowman/NPWS); Wollemi pine (Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney); all others W. Jennings/NPWS.





# Get the facts



## Any questions?

Call the National Parks Centre on 1300 361 967 ...

Where's a good spot for a family picnic? Where can I go camping? Which annual pass is best for me? Ask the friendly staff at the National Parks Centre for information about:

- national parks across NSW
- the full range of National Parks and Wildlife Service annual passes
- Discovery walks, talks and tours
- native animals and plants.

Situated in the heart of The Rocks in Sydney, the centre has a large range of maps, books and gifts for sale, as well as free brochures and other information on national parks. Look for other NPWS visitor centres across NSW throughout this guide.

Fax: 9251 9192

Email: [info@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@npws.nsw.gov.au)

Address: 102 George Street,  
The Rocks, Sydney

Open 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday, and  
9.30 am to 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday.  
Closed Christmas day and Good Friday.



## Information boxes dotted through this guide cover all sorts of special interests:

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## Or try our website [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

In early 2003, we're launching a whole new website. New features to help you plan your next NSW national parks visit will include:

- lots of information on many of the state's popular parks, including walking tracks, camping grounds, picnic/barbecue areas, suggested car, 4WD and cycling routes, and information on activities from birdwatching to adventure recreation;
- simple maps of every park and reserve in NSW;

- plenty of details about the plants, animals, history and culture of our more popular parks;
- special searches for finding the park, camp site or walking track that's just right for you;
- regularly updated information on bushfires, fire bans and area closures; and
- Discovery walks, talks and tours.

So when you're planning your holidays, start with the national parks website.

## Symbols used in this guide

Aboriginal site	Fishing	Swimming
Accommodation	Historic site	Toilets
Barbecue	Kiosk	Walking tracks
Boat ramp	Picnic area	Wheelchair access
Cabins	Public transport	World Heritage
Camping area	Scuba diving	Vehicle entry fee
Caravan site	Showers	

## \$ Vehicle entry fees

Vehicle entry fees apply to only 44 of the more than 600 national parks and reserves in NSW. These fees make a contribution to building, maintaining and enhancing facilities in national parks and reserves and to funding conservation projects. An entry pass must be displayed on your vehicle while you're in the park or else you may be fined. Some parks have self-registration boxes, or coin-operated 'pay and display' machines, so you'll need to bring the right change — call ahead to check. If you're a regular national parks visitor, you can save money on vehicle entry fees by purchasing an annual pass — see page 62 for details.



Abbreviations	HS — Historic Site
NP — National Park	AA — Aboriginal Area
NR — Nature Reserve	MP — Marine Park
SCA — State Conservation Area	RP — Regional Park

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Note: The maps in this publication are intended as a guide to NPWS protected areas only — they're not road maps, so pick up a proper map before setting out for your destination.



# Northern Rivers

The north-east corner of NSW is lush with rainforest — clinging to the slopes of ancient volcanoes, overhanging white-water rivers and in places running right down to the sea. Rocky spurs jut from wilderness areas to provide uninterrupted vistas. Long open beaches and quiet secluded coves fringed by forest are perfect for swimming, and a wealth of estuaries and lagoons offer shady picnic spots and opportunities for canoeing. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/north](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/north)



## 1 Boatharbour Nature Reserve 24 ha



**Highlights** Once a base camp for timber-cutters working in the 'Big Scrub' area, you can still see the pilings of the old wharf used to load river boats with timber. Today, a peaceful picnic area nestles between rainforest and the river.

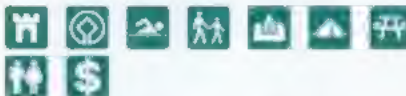
**Activities** A paved, wheelchair-accessible walking track leads to the reserve's viewing platform over the junction of Wilson River and Coopers Creek. An information display provides further insight into the history of the area.

**Access** 6 km north-east of Lismore along Bangalow Road. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

Northern Rivers

## 2 Border Ranges National Park 31,683 ha



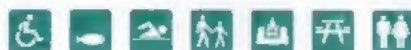
**Highlights** A World Heritage rainforest park on the rim of a vast, ancient volcano. Pinnacle Lookout offers views of Mt Warning, the escarpment and all the way to the coast. The park is a haven to native fauna such as Alberts lyrebird and the pouched frog.

**Activities** Explore tall forests, waterfalls and gorges on the walking track network. The spectacular Tweed Scenic Drive (unsealed, but suitable for 2WD when dry) loops from Murwillumbah to Kyogle and Lismore. There's car-based camping at Sheep Station Creek or Forest Tops (short walk from carpark; camping fees apply), and opportunities for extended backpack camping treks.

**Access** 38 km west of Murwillumbah off Summerland Way or Kyogle Road. Unsealed roads. Vehicle entry fee of \$6 per day.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 3 Broadwater National Park 4204 ha



**Highlights** The main attraction is 8 km of beach, dunes and sand ridges backed by coastal heath and wetlands. In spring, honeyeaters flock to the golden bush peas, sun orchids and other wildflowers.

**Activities** Take the Salty Lagoon walk through undisturbed salt marsh, swamp forest and 60,000-year-old dunes. The picnic area and lookout off the Broadwater-Evans Head Road provide views of the park's diverse vegetation.

**Access** 3 km north of Evans Head via the Broadwater-Evans Head Road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 4 Broken Head Nature Reserve 98 ha



**Highlights** Gullies shielded by banksias allow rainforest to grow right down to the beach. Shallow bays provide secluded beaches and excellent fishing, and in winter this is a great spot for whale watching.

### Superb lyrebird

In the theatre of the forest floor, few can match the talents of the male superb lyrebird. Like all lyrebirds, he can mimic almost any sound — including other birds and animals, whistles, car alarms and even chainsaws. To add to the performance, he fans his lyre-shaped tail over his head to attract females. The superb lyrebird is found along the NSW coast and into Victoria and Queensland.



Any questions call 1300 361 967



# Northern Rivers



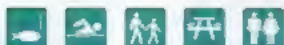
A section of Bundjalung National Park's 38 km of coastline.

**Activities** Take the track from the Broken Head council caravan park along the clifftop to Kings Beach. Enjoy the view, or stop for a swim at Broken Head or Whites beach. In season, you can fish for bream, mullet, tailor and a variety of rock fish.

**Access** 4 km south of Byron Bay off Coast Road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 5 Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve 204 ha



**Highlights** Along with Broken Head and Tyagarah, the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve forms a vital stepping stone for migrating birds. Species from north and south-east Australia overlap here, providing unusually diverse plant and animal communities.

**Activities** Relax with a quiet picnic, a bushwalk or a spot of river fishing. A short walk from the carpark takes in the rare coastal rainforest and opens onto the breakwater on the north bank of the Brunswick River. Follow the path back along the river.

**Access** 20 km north of Byron Bay at Brunswick Heads, just off the Pacific Highway.

North: Murwillumbah 6672 6360

South: Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 6 Bundjalung National Park 20,116 ha



**Highlights** Ten Mile Beach forms part of Bundjalung's 38 km of protected coastline. The Esk River, the largest untouched coastal river system on the north coast, runs through

the southern half of the park. Other features include freshwater lagoons, mangrove mudflats and rare rainforests at Woody Head.

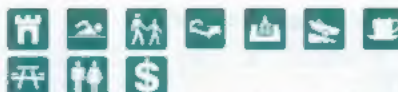
**Activities** The beach and waterways suit surfing, fishing, canoeing and swimming. 4WD beach access is available from Shark Bay to the Black Rocks camping area (unsealed roads to camping area but suitable for 2WD). Camping and cabin accommodation is available at Woody Head (bookings phone 6646 6134). Camping fees apply.

**Access** 50 km south of Ballina, 60 km north of Grafton off the Pacific Highway on Iluka Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

North: Alstonville, 6627 0200

South: Grafton, 6641 1500

## 7 Cape Byron State Conservation Area 99 ha



**Highlights** The Cape's lighthouse has stood on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland for a century, and today you can take a tour of the tower. The rugged headland, surrounded by sheltered rainforest gullies and subtropical waters, is a great spot for watching turtles, dolphins and humpback whales on their annual migration.

**Activities** The magnificent clifftop walking track winds its way through diverse plant communities, offering panoramic views of the ocean and north coast hinterland. Tour Cape Byron Lighthouse (phone 6685 8565 for bookings) or you can even stay the night in the lighthouse keeper's quarters (bookings essential, phone 6685 6552).

**Access** 2 km east of Byron Bay along Lighthouse Road. \$5 vehicle entry fee to the Cape Byron Lighthouse precinct — fee also applies to NPWS annual pass holders.

Byron Bay, 6685 8565

## Help us control pests

Some plants and animals, like lantana and foxes, have been introduced to Australia and become pests in the wild. They can cause severe damage to national parks and reserves. National parks and reserves are there to conserve our uniquely Australian natural and cultural heritage, and pests need to be managed or removed. The NPWS has hundreds of pest control programs involving baiting and trapping feral animals, manual weeding and spraying herbicides. The bushland around your town is also valuable habitat for native fauna and flora.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Don't dump unwanted animals, such as kittens, dogs and chickens, in the bush.
- Make sure your pet cats and dogs are de-sexed.

- Keep your cats and dogs indoors at night, especially at dusk and dawn because that's when many native animals are active.
- Look out for pests that may be new to your area, such as cane toads and fire ants, and report sightings to the NPWS.
- Don't dump garden wastes such as weeds, grass clippings and prunings in the bush.
- Help protect the bush in your area by joining a landcare or bush regeneration group.
- Seeds from some garden plants can be carried long distances by birds, the wind or stormwater and become weeds in the natural environment. Try to choose plants that won't become weed problems in the future.



## 8 Cudgen Nature Reserve

671 ha



**Highlights** Sea turtles have been recorded nesting on the beach and a small population of koalas inhabits the forest around the lake and the Round Mountain area. The lagoon, coastal rainforest and heathland offer a wintering spot for birds, bats and flying-foxes and the beach and dunes make for a pleasant swim.

**Activities** The picnic area beside Cudgen Lake offers free electric barbecues and opportunities for canoeing and swimming. Enjoy a walk beside the lake with the backdrop of Mt Warning to the west.

**Access** 20 km east of Murwillumbah on Clothiers Creek Road off the Pacific Highway.

Murwillumbah, 6672 6360

## 10 Iluka Nature Reserve

136 ha



**Highlights** This tiny treasure — home to a superb range of birdlife — is a small but very valuable remnant of what was once an extensive coastal rainforest. The reserve is an important part of a coastal network of parks that includes Broadwater, Bundjalung and Yuraygir national parks.

**Activities** Strolling the level (wheelchair-accessible) 2.5 km walk from Iluka Bluff to Iluka is the best way to see the park's tall canopy of riberry and lilly pilly trees, intertwined with strangler figs.



Looking out over Wollumbin, Mount Warning National Park.

**Access** Located in Iluka, on Iluka Road off the Pacific Highway. The reserve can be reached via Iluka village from Long Street or the Iluka Bluff picnic area.

Grafton, 6641 1500

## 9 Koreelah National Park

5270 ha



**Highlights** Pockets of World Heritage-listed rainforest hug steep slopes below Acacia Plateau and Wilsons Peak. Keep an eye out for the endangered Coxen's fig-parrot or the threatened brush-tailed rock-wallaby.

**Activities** There's a pleasant car-based camping spot (fees apply) at the small grassy

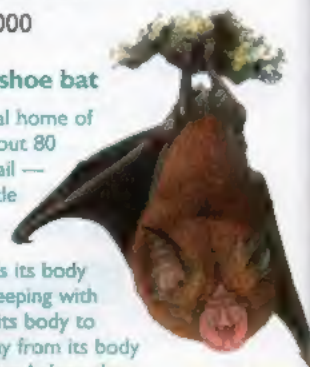
area beside Koreelah Creek (unsealed road but suitable for 2WD in dry weather).

**Access** 30 km west of Woodenbong on White Swamp Road (unsealed) off Summerland Way at Old Koreelah.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

### Eastern horseshoe bat

Caves are the usual home of this tiny bat — about 80 mm from top to tail — but it will also settle in derelict buildings. When roosting it controls its body temperature by sleeping with its wings close to its body to retain heat, or away from its body to lose heat. It's found along the east coast of Australia.



## Staying safe in national parks

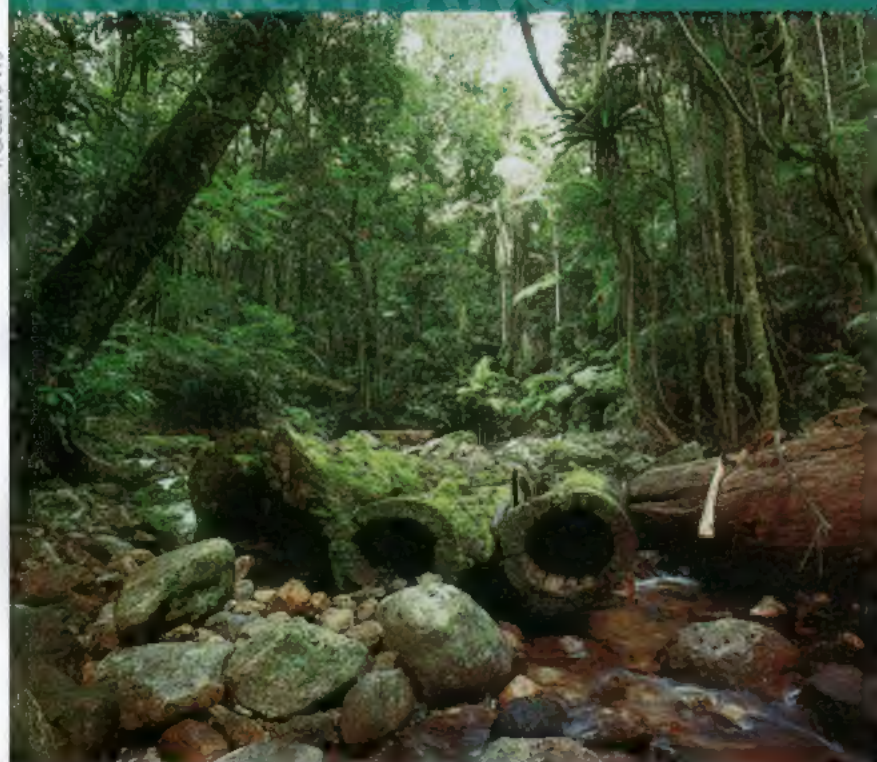
It's always great to escape city life and go bushwalking, picnicking or driving in national parks and reserves. However, they are natural environments, so you need to take some precautions:

- Check the conditions in the park before you go (see contact numbers on the back cover or individual park entries), and tell someone where you're going.
- Obey all park signs and any instructions from a park officer.
- Supervise children closely.
- Keep to tracks and stay behind safety fences.
- Be on the lookout for falling branches and rocks, uneven or slippery surfaces, and cliff edges.
- Don't feed or touch native animals.
- Wear closed footwear — preferably boots or runners.
- Take a topographic map and compass and know how to use them.

- Bring extra clothing and a raincoat, as the weather can turn very quickly.
- Take essential supplies, including first aid kit, torch, matches, and plenty of food and water. For camping take a good tent and a sleeping bag appropriate to the conditions.
- Go in a group of three or more so that in an emergency one person can go for help while another stays with the injured or ill person.
- Before swimming, check the water depth, current and temperature — never dive or jump as there may be hidden logs or rocks.
- Many parks have limited or unpredictable mobile phone coverage, so if you intend to use a mobile for safety purposes contact your phone network supplier to check the coverage in the park you want to visit.

For more safety tips see pages 25, 32, 47 and 59.

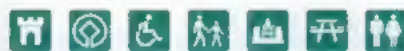




Terania Creek, Nightcap National Park.

## 14 Nightcap National Park

8080 ha



**Highlights** The lush World Heritage rainforest of Nightcap National Park was preserved by a determined group of conservationists. The Mt Nardi and Minyon Falls areas are easily available by car and offer breathtaking views.

**Activities** The picnic area near the awesome 100 metre Minyon Falls provides a great start to the 30 km Whian Whian Forest Drive (unsealed). There are a range of short to medium tracks for the experienced walker, or take the shaded 1.4 km return walk from the Terania Creek picnic area (accessible by unsealed roads) to the breathtaking Protestors Falls. Swimming is not permitted at the falls. No fires are permitted in the park; portable fuel stoves only.

**Access** 35 km north of Lismore. Whian Whian Forest Drive (unsealed) is off the Lismore – Mullumbimby road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 15 Richmond Range National Park 15,420 ha



**Highlights** The extensive old-growth forest and World Heritage-listed rainforest, including the rare Richmond Range spotted gum, provide habitats for a huge range of native fauna.

**Activities** The Cambridge Plateau Scenic Drive runs the length of the southern half of the park, providing ready access to rainforest scenery (unsealed but suitable for 2WD in dry weather; caravans not advisable). Car-based camping is available at Peacock Creek (camping fees apply). From the Cambridge Plateau Picnic Area, take a short rainforest stroll or a two hour loop walk along Culmarin Valley (medium grade — steep steps at beginning).

**Access** 45 km west of Casino via the Bruxner Highway, then the Cambridge Plateau Forest Drive. Roads are closed during wet weather.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

### Short-beaked echidna

Together with the platypus, echidnas are one of the world's few living monotremes, or egg-laying mammals. The short-beaked echidna lives all over NSW, wherever termites — its main food source — can be found.



## 11 Mebbin National Park

3800 ha



**Highlights** Mebbin shares its western boundary with Border Ranges National Park and forms part of the rim of the Mt Warning volcano. It's made up of dry eucalypt and rainforest, with a small section of old-growth forest.

**Activities** You can picnic in the refurbished historic forestry hut, and car-based camping (fees apply) is available in the Mebbin rest area (unsealed road but suitable for 2WD). From here you can take a 450 metre walking track through subtropical rainforest — including a stand of ancient figs — ending at Byrrill Creek.

**Access** 32 km south-west of Murwillumbah on Byrrill Creek Road (unsealed) off Tyalgum Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Murwillumbah, 6672 6360

## 12 Moore Park Nature Reserve 15 ha



**Highlights** This park protects one of the last remnants of 'Boys Scrub'. Several stands of gallery rainforest, including black bean and silky oak, provide habitat for a large colony of grey-headed flying-foxes and endangered black flying-foxes.

**Activities** Do a little bushwalking or birdwatching, or stop for a barbecue or quiet picnic beside the upper reaches of the Richmond River.

**Access** 26 km north-west of Kyogle off the Summerland Way near Old Grevillia.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 13 Mount Warning National Park 2379 ha



**Highlights** Mt Warning, the heart of this World Heritage-listed park, is the remnant central plug of an ancient volcano. Known as Wollumbin to the local Bundjalung people, Mt Warning is a place of great significance in cultural law and spiritual education.

**Activities** Under Bundjalung law, only certain people can climb Wollumbin, so consider choosing to respect their heritage. The track is a steep 9 km return trip, with a challenging rock scramble at the end. As an alternative, enjoy a stroll along the 200 metre Lyrebird Track or a picnic at Korumbyn picnic area. Car-based and caravan camping is available at a privately run caravan park in the area.

**Access** 12 km south-west of Murwillumbah off Kyogle Road.

Murwillumbah, 6672 6360



## 16 Solitary Islands Marine Park 71,100 ha



**Highlights** The marine park shelters over 280 species of fish, four species of turtle and around 90 species of coral. There are colourful sea slugs and plenty of marine mammals, including migrating humpback whales during colder months.

**Activities** If you're a water enthusiast, Solitary Islands has everything — diving, snorkelling, swimming, surfing, beach walking, whale watching, birdwatching, fishing and boating. You can camp in the adjacent Yuraygir National Park (north of Red Rock), or you'll find accommodation in Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga, Wooli, Red Rock and numerous other places in the area. Special rules apply in the marine park, and zoning maps are available from tourist information centres, bait and tackle stores, dive shops and the marine park office.

**Access** The marine park stretches for 75 km along the coast north of Coffs Harbour. Access is from sealed roads off the Pacific Highway.

NSW Marine Parks Authority,  
6652 3977 or 6652 0900

### Red legged pademelon

This small, red and brown-furred relative of the kangaroo leads a solitary life in coastal forests from the NSW mid-north coast to Cape York. It feeds on leaves and berries, particularly Moreton Bay figs. To sleep, the red-legged pademelon rests its back against a tree, straddles the base of its tail and slumps its head forward into a ball.



## 17 Tooloom National Park 4380 ha



**Highlights** The Tooloom Scrub rainforest is World Heritage-listed, including important areas of red and flooded gum. There are 10 species of kangaroos and wallabies in the park, including the threatened long-nosed potoroo.

**Activities** A sealed road on the southern edge provides access to the Tooloom Picnic Area and lookout, with pit toilets and tank water. A 500 metre walking track from the picnic area offers an easy introduction to the Tooloom Scrub. Backpack camping is permitted in the park, but suitable sites are limited.

**Access** 10 km south-west of Urbenville via the Urbenville-Legume road.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 18 Toonumbar National Park 14,991 ha



**Highlights** Extensive subtropical rainforests protect threatened plants and animals, including the sooty owl, red-legged pademelon and yellow-bellied glider. The rainforests of Dome Mountain and the Murray Scrub are part of the World Heritage-listed Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia.

**Activities** The Murray Scrub walking track provides access to World Heritage rainforest. It takes two to three hours and is mostly of an easy grade. Car-based and caravan camping are available at Iron Pot Creek (fees apply).

**Access** 25 km west of Kyogle via the Afterlee Road (part unsealed but suitable for 2WD in dry weather). Roads may be closed during wet weather.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 19 Tweed Heads Historic Site 8 ha



**Highlights** The cultural centre, museum and Minjungbals ceremonial bora ring offer an insight into local Aboriginal culture.

**Activities** A boardwalk and walking track (both wheelchair accessible) run along the Ukerabagh Passage estuary, overlooking the nearby Ukerabagh Island Nature Reserve, and the local Goori people conduct guided tours.

**Access** Located in South Tweed Heads on Kirkwood Road off the Pacific Highway.

Murwillumbah, 6672 6360

## 20 Tyagarah Nature Reserve 800 ha



**Highlights** Tyagarah is a thin strip of protected coast encompassing 8 km of secluded and unspoiled beach backed by coastal heath.

**Activities** Have a quiet walk, or indulge in a spot of birdwatching or fishing within a stone's throw of Byron Bay township. There are picnic facilities at the beach and an old mining track leads from Grays Lane to the northern boundary of the reserve. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 10 km north of Byron Bay along Grays Lane (unsealed sections) off the Pacific Highway. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## Learning more about Aboriginal culture

The parks and reserves of NSW form part of the state's Aboriginal heritage. While many parks and reserves have examples of Aboriginal heritage to see and feel, such as the rock paintings at Mutawintji Historic Site, or the middens at Murramarang Aboriginal Area, the landscape itself is a living thing, with cultural and spiritual ties for Aboriginal custodians that are still strong today. If you treat the parks and reserves you visit with respect, and apply a little common sense, you'll help to conserve the natural and cultural landscape.

The NPWS works in partnership with Aboriginal communities to protect natural and cultural heritage and the relationship between people and the land. Several parks are jointly managed by the NPWS and Aboriginal custodians, and similar arrangements are currently in negotiation throughout NSW. For example, Mungo National Park in the Outback NSW Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area is jointly managed with

the Three Tribal Groups' Elders Council, with representatives from the Barkindji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngyiampaa people.

To learn more about Aboriginal culture and tradition, join an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger on a Discovery walk, talk or tour. Around Sydney, take a tour of Botany Bay National Park for an insight into the culture and traditional life of the Gweagal and Goorawal peoples; learn about traditional foods and medicines of the Dharawal people in Royal National Park or sit in on a talk in Blue Mountains National Park.

In the north, a Ranger can take you through Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve's cave painting site, or on a walking tour through Killiekrankie in New England National Park and the Killungoondie Plains in Dorrigo National Park. Out west, the Aboriginal Discovery Program at Mutawintji National Park features bush tucker, billy tea, Aboriginal art and kids' activities.





Sandon River, Yuraygir National Park.

## 23 Yuraygir National Park 30,406 ha



**Highlights** 60 km of striking cliffs, rocky headlands, isolated beaches and quiet lake systems set against a backdrop of forests, heaths, estuaries and wetlands make Yuraygir the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in NSW.

**Activities** Boardwalks, walking tracks and picnic spots scattered throughout the park provide a range of opportunities to appreciate the scenery. There's car-based and caravan camping at Red Cliff, Lake Arragan, Sandon River and Illaroo, and car-based camping at Station Creek. Camping fees apply.

**Access** 50 km east of Grafton. Red Cliff, Lake Arragan and Sandon River are 15 km south-east of Maclean along Brooms Head Road (partially unsealed). Illaroo is 47 km east of Grafton, via Wooli Road and Minnie Water Road (off the Pacific Highway 12 km south of Grafton). Station Creek is 14 km north of Woolgoolga, via Barcoongerie Way (unsealed). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Grafton, 6641 1500

### Chocolate-lily

This small flower, found across NSW, emits a strong scent to attract insects — and its chocolate-like aroma is very pleasant to humans as well. For a bit of variety try its close relative, the vanilla-lily.



## 21 Victoria Park Nature Reserve 18 ha



**Highlights** A stand of rainforest giants is one of the last remnants of the 'Big Scrub' — a lowland rainforest that once covered 75,000 hectares of northern NSW. Over 150 tree species have been recorded in this one small reserve.

**Activities** Take an easy, delightful stroll along the boardwalk and walking track and enjoy the variety of animals that inhabit the rainforest. There are several picnic areas with facilities and ample parking.

**Access** 7 km south of Alstonville on the Wardell Road. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 22 Wilson Nature Reserve 27 ha



**Highlights** The reserve contains a significant patch of dry rainforest, a remnant of the 'Big Scrub'. The threatened marbled frogmouth can be found here, and koalas inhabit the eucalypt forest.

**Activities** A 1 km walking track leads from the picnic area to the lower section of the reserve, then back via Wilsons Creek. It's strenuous but very scenic.

**Access** On the southern outskirts of Lismore at the corner of City View Drive and Wyrallah Road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## Best spots for birdwatching

The national parks and reserves of NSW are home to hundreds of bird species, and one of the joys of visiting the bush is being able to watch or listen to birds in their natural environments.

In the state's north you can enjoy the prolific birdlife at Mallanganee National Park, see countless protected waterbirds in Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve, or marvel at the thousands of muttonbirds congregating each year to breed on Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve.

Around Sydney, Georges River National Park is home to more than 100 species, you can stroll among the birdlife on the shores of Lake Macquarie, and in Garawarra State Conservation Area

you may find that mimic of the forest floor, the lyrebird. Purchase a copy of *Birdwatching in Royal National Park and Heathcote National Park* at the Audley visitor centre.

In the south, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve has a bird observatory, there's plenty to be seen at Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve and Brindabella National Park, and Comerong Island Nature Reserve is home to a large number of wading birds.

In the west, birds congregate at Kinchega National Park's glittering lakes in a dry landscape, and in Culgoa National Park you can see a huge diversity of birds on the open grass plains.

Call 1300 361 967 or contact local NPWS offices (see back cover) for more information.



# New England Tablelands

The high country of New England, bordered by the Great Escarpment to the east, has dramatic granite tors, plunging waterfalls, deep gorges and rugged wilderness, as well as fascinating Aboriginal and historic places. Experience breathtaking views from the summit of Bald Rock, walk in moss-covered cool-temperate rainforests at New England National Park or look out over the mighty Wollomombi waterfall as it drops into the deepest gorge in NSW. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/newengland](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/newengland)



## 1 Bald Rock National Park 8883 ha



**Highlights** The water-streaked dome of Bald Rock is the largest granite rock in Australia — 750 metres long, 500 metres wide and

200 metres high. The park around it is full of canyons, stone arches, echo points and plenty of kangaroos.

**Activities** The walk to the summit (three hour return trip) offers panoramic views, and on a clear day you can see well into Queensland. Other walks (4 to 14 km return) take in the creeks and woodlands of the surrounding granite country. The

camping area beside the rock suits car-based camping and medium-sized caravans, and has toilets and water (fees apply).

**Access** 29 km north of Tenterfield off the mostly-sealed Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 2 Basket Swamp National Park 2820 ha

**Highlights** Basket Swamp is an important wetland of heaths and sedges. It cleans, stores and slowly releases water throughout the year into local creeks that run into the coastal Clarence River system.

**Activities** This is a woodland park without facilities that would suit self-reliant bushwalkers. It includes Timbarra Lookout and gives access to nearby Basket Swamp Falls and the Woolloomool Aboriginal Place. Boonoo State Forest, which has a picnic and camping area with tables and toilet, is directly south.

**Access** 14 km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road (partly unsealed)

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 3 Boonoo Boonoo National Park 4377 ha



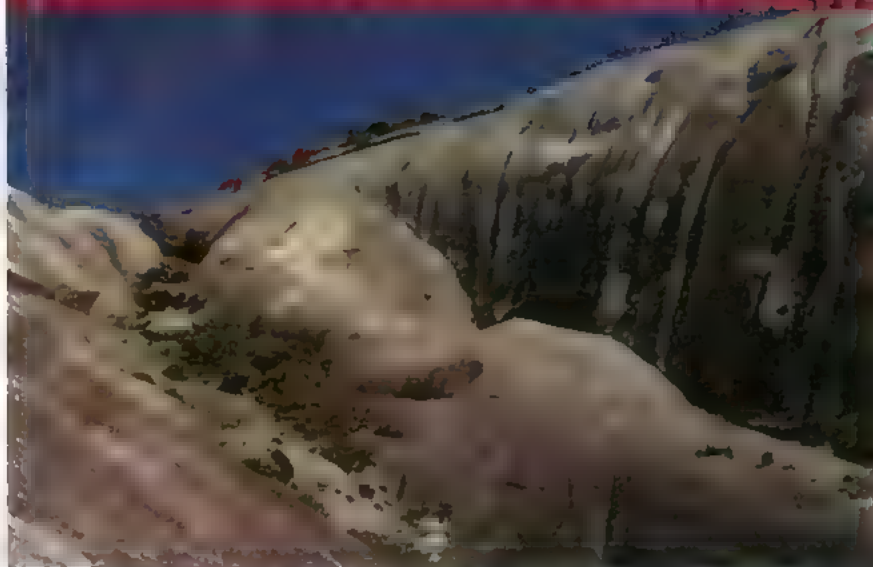
**Highlights** From a lookout platform you can watch the river plunge 210 metres at Boonoo Boonoo Falls. In spring, boronia, banksia, grevillea and a profusion of other flowering plants brighten the woodlands of this granite country.

**Activities** Cypress-pine camping area, by Boonoo Boonoo River, suits car-based camping, including medium-sized caravans (camping fees apply). The falls are an easy 300 metres walk from the campsite and swimming in the river is popular in summer.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road on partly unsealed roads. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133





The massive boulder at Cathedral Rock National Park.

#### 4 Carrai National Park 11,397 ha

**Highlights** The three separate areas of this remote and isolated park jointly conserve parts of the unique Carrai plateau and steep escarpments to Kunderang Brook and the Macleay River.

**Activities** You can enjoy good views across the Macleay River Valley. Large tracts of old growth eucalypt forest and rainforest provide ample opportunities for experienced and well-prepared bushwalkers. Basic accommodation is available at nearby Kookaburra Hut (for bookings phone 6566 6168).

**Access** 90 km west of Kempsey on the remote, unsealed Carrai and Coachwood roads via Kookaburra (4WD essential).

Walcha, 6777 1400

#### 5 Cathedral Rock National Park 8839 ha



**Highlights** Giant boulders, sculpted rock and distinctive granite tors make striking subjects for photography — and keep an eye out for wedge-tailed eagles on the wing.

**Activities** Explore the rock formations on the Cathedral Rock track, an easy three hour circuit, or the longer Woolpack Rocks walk (medium grade). Car-based camping is available at Barokee (not suitable for caravans) and Native Dog Creek rest areas. Camping fees apply.

**Access** 60 km west of Dorrigo off the Watertall Way (unsealed roads).

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

#### 6 Chaelundi National Park 10,125 ha



**Highlights** Chaelundi's old-growth forest, the largest stand in northern NSW, supports threatened fauna and makes for excellent bushwalking.

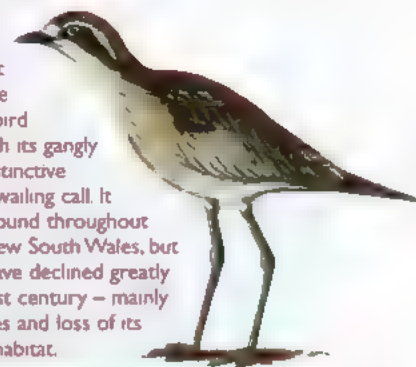
**Activities** Do some birdwatching, go cycling along the network of fire trails or picnic at the Shannon Creek rest area (on Shannon Creek Forest Road). Grassy flats along Chandlers Creek are suitable for walking, swimming and backpack camping (no facilities). Car-based camping available along the Chandlers Creek fire trail (4WD only, no facilities).

**Access** 10 km west of Nymbonda via Boundary Creek Road (unsealed) off the Armadale–Gratton Road.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

#### Bush stone-curlew

The bush stone-curlew is one of the state's most recognisable woodland bird species, with its gangly legs and distinctive 'weer-loo' wailing call. It was once found throughout much of New South Wales, but numbers have declined greatly over the last century — mainly due to foxes and loss of its woodland habitat.



#### New wilderness to explore

The New South Wales Government has announced the creation of a new wilderness area, the 10,125-hectare Chaelundi National Park, in the northern part of the state. The park is located in the Shire of Dorrigo, north of the town of Nymbonda, and is bounded by the Shannon Creek Forest Road to the north, the Armadale-Gratton Road to the east, and the Boundary Creek Road to the south. The park is a remnant of the old-growth forest that once covered much of the northern part of New South Wales. It is home to a wide range of native plants and animals, including many species that are now threatened or endangered. The park is a valuable addition to the state's wilderness network, and it will provide a new area for recreational and scientific study.

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Lookouts, Guy Fawkes River National Park

## 7 Cottan-Bimbang National Park 26,861 ha



**Highlights** This park crosses the Oxley Highway south of Werrimbee National Park and was formerly State Forest. 'Cottan-bimbang' is the local Aboriginal word for the Walking Stick Palm, which grows in the park's warm temperate rainforests.

**Activities** Myrtle Scrub Road in the west of the park provides a scenic drive and an introduction to the extensive tracts of tall old growth wet eucalypt forest and rainforest. There's a picnic area on the Oxley Highway, a cleared area for picnics next to Cells River on Myrtle Scrub Road and limited accommodation, fuel and food is available just outside the Park at Gingers Creek.

**Access** 65 km east of Walcha along the Oxley Highway. Myrtle Scrub Road is a 15km circuit that connects with the Oxley Highway.

Walcha, 6777 1400  
Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

### Brown tree snake

At night, the brown tree snake glides slowly through the branches of coastal forests throughout north and eastern Australia. It can constrict and crush its prey, or

loop itself into S-shaped coils like a spring and launch a rapid series of open-mouthed striking attacks. With its broad head, aggressive nature and cat-like eyes, this snake is more intimidating than it is dangerous.

New England Tablelands

## 8 Cunnawarra National Park 15,751 ha

**Highlights** From the Cunnawarra Range to the Georges River valley, this park links the snow gum high country of New England National Park with the ranges of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

**Activities** Beech Lookout (on the Styx Forest Way) overlooks ancient Antarctic beech rainforest in the headwaters of the Georges River. White gums in the surrounding forests are some of the tallest trees in the state. Nearby Wattle Flat and Georges Junction provide campsites, and a good base to enjoy quiet forest drives through remote ranges.

**Access** 70 km south-west of Dorrigo, 70 km east of Armidale. The Styx Forest Way, off the Waterfall Way, loops through the park via Point Lookout Road and the Wollomombi-Kempsey road (unsealed roads).

Dorrigo, 6657 2309  
Armidale, 6776 0000

## 9 Gibraltar Range National Park 25,346 ha



**Highlights** Deep valleys and giant granite boulders protect rainforest of World Heritage importance. Scenic creeks and cascades, swamps, heaths and woodlands can be explored on more than 100 km of walking trails.

**Activities** Short walks lead to famous rock formations such as The Needles and Anvil Rock, or take the spectacular five-day Walk on the Edge of Wilderness. Waratahs and Christmas bells bloom in October-

November, and drive-to lookouts give dramatic wilderness views. Mulligans Hut camping area has visitor facilities and suits car-based camping (and will take medium-sized caravans) or you can backpack camp throughout the park.

**Access** 79 km east of Glen Innes, 104 km west of Grafton off the Gwydir Highway. The 9 km park entry road from the highway to Mulligans Hut is unsealed but suitable for all weather. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 10 Guy Fawkes River National Park 72,946 ha



**Highlights** Secluded, rugged wilderness and scenic river systems support large plant and animal populations. Lookouts and waterfalls are accessible to picnickers and campers, and experienced walkers can delve into unspoiled bush.

**Activities** The park offers scope for long, hard hikes and backpack camping along the river. There are good views from lookouts on Misty Creek Road and Chaelundi Road, and you can have a picnic beside Ebor Falls, where the Guy Fawkes River plunges off the tablelands. There's car-based camping and access to easy walking tracks at Chaelundi rest area (with accessible campsite and toilets); Camping fees apply.

**Access** 60 km north-west of Dorrigo off the Armidale-Grafton road. Unsealed roads. Take Sheep Station Creek Road (unsealed) at Durrumbidgee or Marengo Road (mostly unsealed) from Hernani, on the Armidale-Grafton road.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

## 11 Kings Plains National Park 6919 ha



**Highlights** Kings Plains Creek offers still pools, rapids and waterfalls among dry rocky ridges; wildflowers abound in spring.

**Activities** Rock-hop down the creek, scramble through dry woodlands, or sit and watch the wildlife. There are picnic and camping facilities 50 metres from the carpark in a walk-in area beside the creek with toilets and tables. A second area is being developed for car-based camping.

**Access** 50 km north-west of Glen Innes via Wellingrove — follow the signs off the Gwydir Highway west of the town then onto

Any questions call 1300 361 967



the Kings Plain Road, 47 km north-east of Inverell off Swanbrook Road in town. All roads are unsealed with creek crossings that may flood briefly in wet weather.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 12 Kwiambal National Park 1301 ha



**Highlights** The Macintyre river rushes through sculpted granite gorges and plunge pools at Macintyre Falls before meeting the Severn River. The park protects regionally important woodlands of white cypress-pine, box and ironbark.

**Activities** Camp or fish by the river or go for a bushwalk. Car-based and caravan camping is available by the Severn River at Lemon Tree Flat, where there are toilets, fireplaces and shelters.

**Access** 90 km north of Inverell. Go to Ashford village, then west 18 km on the sealed Wallangra Road, then turn north for 18 km on unsealed Limestone Road. In wet weather check road conditions in Ashford, or phone the Glen Innes office or local police.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 13 Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve 258 ha



**Highlights** A small, high-altitude wetland, supporting significant communities of black swans and nomadic pelicans, that was declared a 'Wetland of International Importance' in 1996. There's excellent birdwatching on the southern shores of the lagoon.

**Activities** You can walk around the lagoon watching waterbirds, but the track is rough so you'll need good footwear. For the protection of the birds, camping and canoeing are not allowed. Information signs are the only visitor facility.

**Access** 50 km south of Glen Innes, 60 km north of Armadale. Turn off the Gwydir Highway 44 km south of Glen Innes or 10 km north of the village of Llangothlin, and take the Tubhamurra Road for 2.5 km, then turn left onto Bagot Road (unsealed) for a further 3.5 km.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

### Green and golden bell frog

This vibrant frog's upper body is a jumble of vivid greens and almost metallic golds. However, its croak could hardly be described as 'bell-like' — listeners have likened it to the sound of a motorbike changing gears. This once-widespread frog is now limited to a series of isolated coastal populations.



## 14 Mann River Nature Reserve 6594 ha



**Highlights** The remote, rugged and largely untouched landscape, part of the Mann River Wilderness, offers plenty of quiet and solitude. Rocky outcrops provide outstanding views and the river makes a pleasant spot for walking or camping.

**Activities** Swim, paddle an air mattress, or stretch out and relax on a smooth boulder. Car-based and caravan camping are available beside the river, where there are toilets, fireplaces and tables. Suitably equipped bushwalkers with topographic maps can explore the wider parts of the river upstream.

## Camping spots and costs



(guide is divided into three categories:

have showers).

backpack camping).

Further information:

### Camping fees

levels:

Level	Price per adult per day (16+ years)	Price per child per day (5-15 years)
1	\$10	\$5
2	\$15	\$7.50
3	\$20	\$10
4	\$25	\$12.50

annual pass:

(book early to avoid disappointment.)



**Access** 48 km east of Glen Innes, 129 km west of Grafton. Turn off the Gwydir Highway 35 km east of Glen Innes onto the old Glen Innes–Grafton road (partly unsealed, but the winding steep descent is fully sealed and will suit medium-sized caravans). Take this road between the park and Grafton for a scenic alternative, but it includes 120 km of unsealed road not suitable for caravans.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 15 Mother of Ducks Lagoon Nature Reserve 97 ha



**Highlights** A rare high-country wetland that's a stopping place for the migratory Japanese snipe and home to many other waterbirds.

**Activities** Watch the birdlife from the hide at the edge of the water. There are no marked walking tracks but it's possible to walk around the lagoon. The viewing platform is accessible by wheelchair from the adjacent carpark near the golf course. There are no camping facilities but there's a camping and caravans park in nearby Guyra.

**Access** 37 km north of Armidale just off the New England Highway in south Guyra. 2WD sealed access.

Armidale, 6776 0000

## 16 Mount Hyland Nature Reserve 2519 ha



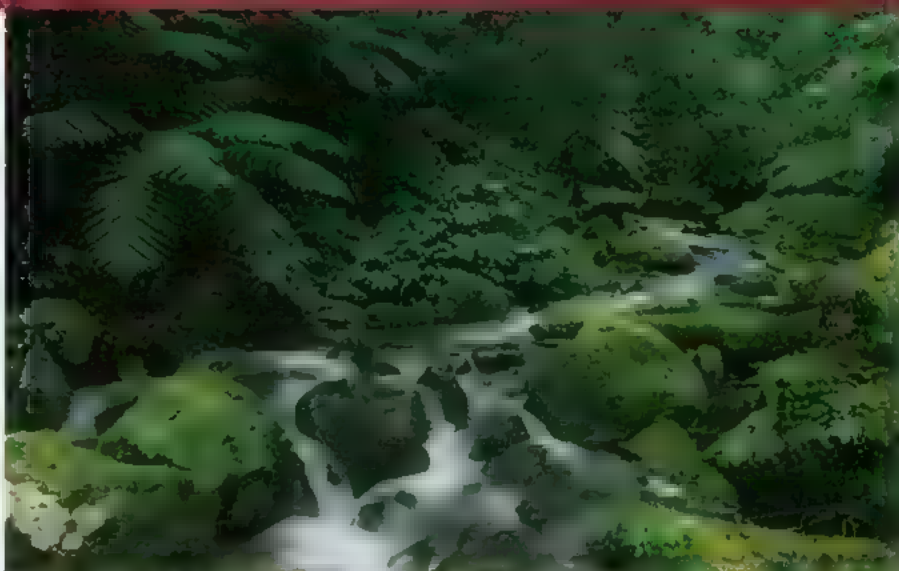
**Highlights** Cool temperate rainforest clothes the three separate peaks that make up Mt Hyland, which at 1400 metres is one of the highest points on the New England Plateau. A short walk, picnic facilities and two lookouts are provided in the reserve.

**Activities** The 3 km loop walk guides you through the sassafras and mountain walnut-dominated rainforest, where a series of signs introduce interesting features of the park. Lookouts along the trail and at Vista Point provide magnificent views across the Dorrigo plateau.

**Access** 50 km north-west of Dorrigo. Take either the unsealed Sheep Station Creek Road from Dundurrabin or Marengo and Hardens Roads (unsealed) from Hernani. Both routes branch off from the Armidale–Grafton road.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

New England Tablelands



Waterfall, Dorrigo, New England National Park

## 17 Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve 170 ha



**Highlights** Take an Aboriginal cultural walk and visit an Aboriginal rock painting site.

**Activities** A 3 km return track with signs introducing aspects of Aboriginal culture takes you along the granite slopes of the mountain to the rock painting site. Discovery tours with Aboriginal guides are available during the year and on request (fees apply).

**Access** 30 km west of Armidale along the mostly sealed Bundarra Road.

Armidale, 6776 0000

## 18 Mummel Gulf National Park 12,220 ha



**Highlights** The ancient old growth forests of this park cling to the edge of the Great Escarpment, which drops from 1450 metres down to 470 metres. The site of protests against continued logging in the early 1990s, the park protects the threatened spotted-tailed quoll, koola, yellow-bellied glider and sooty, powerful and masked owls, as well as several rare plants.

**Activities** There's a picnic area and car-based camping at New Country Swamp. A short walk from the campground offers breathtaking views from the edge of Mummel Gulf.

**Access** 12 km south of the Oxley Highway, 50 km south east of Walcha on the unsealed Enfield Road (last 15 km of unsealed road not recommended for caravans, and not recommended for 2WD vehicles in wet weather).

Walcha, 6777 1400

## 19 New England National Park 71,299 ha



**Highlights** A landscape of cliffs and World Heritage rainforests with fast creeks, occasional snowfalls and mist that spills over the edge of the Great Escarpment.

**Activities** Point Lookout, Banksia Point or Wrights Lookout offer wilderness views. You can enjoy easy walks around the lookouts, or take one of the longer, more challenging tracks. There's wheelchair access to Point Lookout viewing platform on a 100-metre sealed track from the carpark (accessible parking and toilets). Stay at The Residence, The Chalet or Tom's Cabin (for bookings phone 6657 2309). Car-based camping is available at Thungutti and an area for campervans and camper trailers is available just outside the entrance to the park (call for details). Camping fees apply.

**Access** 85 km east of Armidale on the Waterfall Way. Unsealed roads.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

## 20 Nymboida National Park 31,566 ha



**Highlights** An area famous for the challenging white-water on the Nymboida and Mann rivers.

**Activities** There are no marked tracks, but the park has a lot to offer for experienced and well-equipped walkers. Take on the white-water, or go canoeing, swimming or fishing in one of the quieter spots. There's 4WD-based camping at Nymboida River camping area (basic facilities, no fees).

Any questions call 1300 361 967



Access 50 km west of Grafton. Also accessible by canoe from Buccarumbi (40 km south-west of Grafton on the old Glen Innes–Grafton road, unsealed), or on foot from Jackadgery (45 km west of Grafton on the Gwydir Highway)

Grafton, 6641 1500

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 21 Oxley Wild Rivers

National Park 120,394 ha



**Highlights** A World Heritage park with dramatic gorges and waterfalls, extensive wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, dry rainforest and rare plants and animals. Wollomombi is the highest waterfall in NSW and the Bicentennial National Trail passes through the park

**Activities** The park spreads over a large area, with ten separate visitor areas. Gara Gorge is for day use only. Wollomombi Gorge, Long Point, Dangars Gorge, Budds Mare, Apsley Falls and Tia Falls are suitable for 2WD car-based camping. Riverside and Youdales Hut offer camping and day use but are accessible by 4WD only (bookings required, phone 6777 2755 or 6777 1400). Kunderang East Homestead has accommodation but no camping (bookings required, phone 6776 0000)

Discovery tours are available at times during the year (fees apply). Walks of varying distances and degree of difficulty are available at each visitor area. There are excellent facilities for people with a disability, including amazing lookouts and paths at Apsley, Dangars and Wollomombi Falls

**Access** Beginning about 20 km east of Armidale and Walcha, there are two main access roads, the Waterfall Way and Oxley Highway. Other access roads are good but unsealed, with 4WD required in a few places. Check a detailed map for other access points and seek further information before visiting.

Armidale, 6776 0000

Walcha, 6777 1400

## 22 Stonewoman Aboriginal Area 2 ha



**Highlights** The Tingha Stonewoman is a rock feature used by local Aboriginal people as a teaching and ceremonial site. A sign prepared in collaboration with local Aboriginal groups tells the story of a young woman punished for breaking traditional marriage laws.

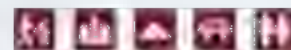
**Activities** You'll need to carry drinking water and allow one hour in total for the 1 km walk from the carpark. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** The carpark is 6 km south of Tingha village on the unsealed Kempton Road.

Tingha is 22 km south-east of Inverell and 55 km north-west of Guyra on sealed roads.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 23 Torrington State Conservation Area 30,052 ha



**Highlights** A geologically rich part of the Tablelands with beautiful scenery, several historical sites, and an amazing variety of woodland plants and animals. Fossickers seek topaz, emerald, sapphire and quartz crystal here.

**Activities** There are visitor facilities at Nomads picnic area, where Thunderbolts Lookout offers fine 360° views, and you can walk to the curious rock formation called Mystery Face. Car-based camping is available at Blatherarm Creek camping area

### Yellow-bellied glider

Gliding possums 'fly' from one tree to another on a sheet of skin stretched between their forepaws and ankles, using their long, furry tails as rudders. The yellow-bellied glider, the best flyer of the family, can travel over 100 metres in one leap. It's found along the NSW coast.



### Tread softly

#### When camping:

Leave no trace of your camp. Off the beaten track, use a fuel stove rather than wood (dead wood provides habitat for native animals).

Don't bury human waste.

Don't feed native animals.

Don't make them dependent on camping areas for food.

For more details on camping, see page 15.

#### When walking:

Stay on the track. Don't dig for or collect native plants or animals.

and hard ground wherever possible.

boots.

#### When vehicle touring:

Don't prevent oil and fuel spills.

your tyres or under your car.

Don't make them dependent on camping areas for food.

driving lights.

Don't make them dependent on camping areas for food.

For more details on touring, see page 57.





Namoi River winding through forest

in the north-east, or stay in the caravan park or hotel in nearby Torrington. Local roads are unsealed but suitable for all weather (take care when wet).

**Access** 65 km north of Glen Innes. Leave Deepwater on the New England Highway 45 km north of Glen Innes or 55 km south of Tenterfield, travel to Stannum then follow 10 km of unsealed road to Torrington.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 24 Warrabah National Park 3471 ha



**Highlights** One of the state's few inland river parks, Warrabah provides an important native refuge in a largely cleared area. Ridges and isolated granite boulders line a scenic section of the Namoi River before it meets the Western Plains.

**Activities** Pools and rapids are excellent for fishing and canoeing, and there are good opportunities for bushwalking. There's plenty of room for campers (fees apply) and day visitors.

**Access** 80 km north of Tamworth, 35 km north-east of Manilla on the unsealed Namoi River Road.

Armidale, 6776 0000

## 25 Washpool National Park 60,067 ha



**Highlights** The landscape of steep gorges, clear waters and expansive World Heritage rainforest protects some of the most diverse and least disturbed forest in NSW, including the world's largest stand of

coachwood trees. The scope for wilderness walking is excellent.

**Activities** The 8.5 km Washpool Walk takes in the park's main forest types. The Coombadjha Walk, an easy 1.5 km circuit with educational signs and creek-side scenery, makes a good introduction to the park. Camp at Coombadjha (short walk from carpark) or Bellbird camping areas, where there are toilets, shelters and fireplaces (fees apply). Car-based camping is available but the park doesn't suit caravans.

**Access** 78 km east of Glen Innes and 93 km west of Grafton off the Gwydir Highway. Includes a 3 km park entry road (unsealed; take care when wet). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 26 Werrikimbe National Park 31,488 ha



**Highlights** A World Heritage-listed place of wild magnificence, with rainforests, heaths, rushing rivers and spring wildflowers.

**Activities** There are five main visitor areas at Cobcroft, Mooraback, Plateau Beech, Grass Tree and Brushy Mountain. Car-based camping is available at Mooraback (2WD) and Brushy Mountain (4WD only) camping areas. Short walks are available from all five visitor areas, with longer walks at various locations.

**Access** 90 km east of Walcha or 80 km north-west of Wauchope off the Oxley Highway, including 55 km of narrow unsealed roads (not recommended for standard caravans).

East: Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

West: Walcha, 6777 1400

### Access for people with a disability



certain areas of a park are wheelchair accessible.

are sight impaired. Here is just a sample:

specialty designed for wheelchair access.

Willandra National Park

tracks in Royal National Park

in 17 parks around the Sydney area.



# Hunter & Mid North Coast

Explore coastal lakes and estuaries, towering dunes, white sand beaches and rocky headlands. Inland parks offer subtropical, moist eucalypt and warm temperate habitats, as well as trackless wilderness and world heritage rainforests. Beneath Burning Mountain lies a slowly smouldering coal seam, the Nymboida river roars with white water and at Dorrigo you can take a boardwalk stroll through the rainforest canopy. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/midnorth](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/midnorth)



## 1 Arakoon State Conservation Area 114 ha



**Highlights** Trial Bay Gaol (1886), which is on the Register of the National Estate, is surrounded by rocky foreshores and pleasant sandy beaches

**Activities** Wander through the museum, explore the ruins or relax on the beach. You can take a stroll over Monument Hill to the Little Bay picnic area, or enjoy the spectacular walk from the picnic area to historic Smoky Cape Lighthouse in Hat Head National Park. Around the gaol there are picnic areas and facilities for car-based and

caravan camping. There's an entry fee to the gaol and museum with guided tours available in holiday periods. Camping fees apply.

**Access** 3 km east of South West Rocks near the village of Arakoon

Arakoon, 6566 6621

## 2 Barrington Tops National Park 73,884 ha



**Highlights** A land of contrasts, with World Heritage sub-tropical rainforests in the lower valleys and sub-alpine woodland on the upland plateau. Most of the area is declared wilderness, with wild and scenic rivers and winter snowcaps

**Activities** Short, interesting walks at Gloucester Tops feature antarctic beech forests, snow gum woodlands and scenic waterfalls. At Williams River and Jerusalem Creek there are easy walks through rainforest and tall blue gums. Wheelchair access is provided at Devils Hole lookout and the Williams River picnic area. On the plateau, short and inspiring walks at Polblue Swamp pass through snow gum woodland, tall eucalypt forest and areas of high-altitude swamp. Car-based camping is available at Gloucester River (fees apply), Polblue Swamp, Horse Swamp or Devils Hole

**Access** 38 km west of Gloucester, 40 km north-west of Dungog and 65 km east of Scone. Access is generally along unsealed roads. Entry to Polblue Swamp camping area and barbecue facilities is off the Barrington Tops Forest Road.

Gloucester, 6538 5300

Scone, 6540 2300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 3 Bellinger River National Park 2830 ha

**Highlights** An area of steep slopes and valleys, old-growth forests and rainforests that links New England National Park and Dorrigo National Park, forming part of one of the largest wildlife refuges in NSW

**Activities** Much of the park is very steep with limited access, however keen walkers and birdwatchers can explore the trackless forests. Griffiths Lookout, above the northern edge of the park, gives marvellous views of the coast and the Great Escarpment.

**Access** 10 km south-east of Dorrigo. There's no vehicle access within the park. Walk in from the Waterfall Way, or from roads alongside Bellinger River

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

### Regent bowerbird

Male bowerbirds build their intricate display areas (or bowers) not for laying eggs, but to entice females. The regent bowerbird weaves its bower out of twigs, paints it yellow with saliva and the juice of crushed leaves, and then decorates it with snail shells, pebbles, berries and leaves. It's found along the coast north from Sydney.





#### 4 Bindarri National Park 5321 ha

**Highlights** The headwaters of the Urumbilum River offer spectacular waterfalls in a remote and rugged setting. Pockets of old-growth forest are scattered across the plateau and rainforest protects the steeper slopes.

**Activities** There are currently no facilities, however backpack camping and bush-walking are possible if you're keen to explore the park's remote forests.

**Access** 20 km west of Coffs Harbour, via Corfes Road from near Ulong, or Pine Road from Dairyville (both unsealed, dry-weather roads, 4WD access only on Pine, Langleys and Urumbilum Roads).

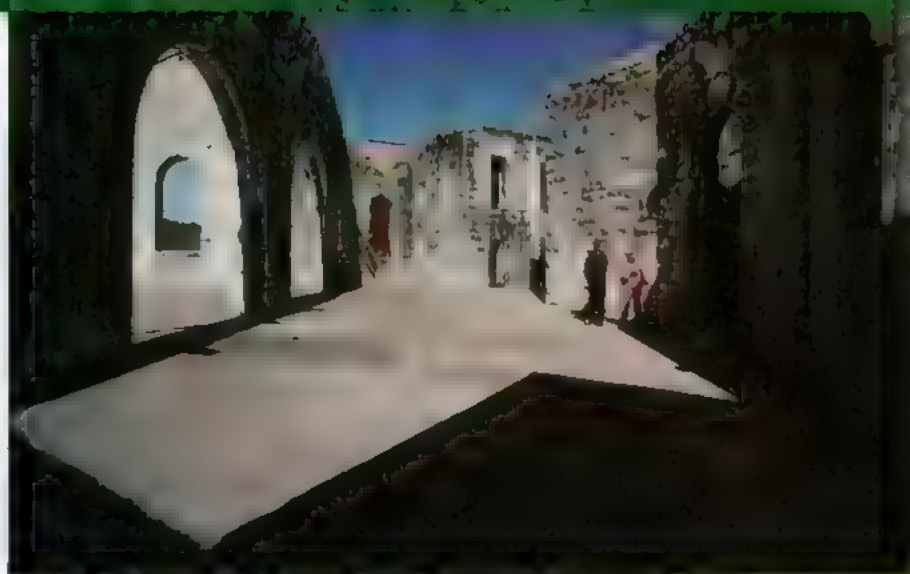
Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

#### 5 Bongil Bongil National Park 978 ha



**Highlights** 11 kilometres of unspoiled beaches, coastal rainforest and fascinating estuaries make Bongil Bongil ideal for family activities. A set of three sandy dunes run parallel to the beach, the best feature of this type in NSW.

**Activities** The new Bongil picnic area is set among tall trees on the banks of peaceful



Tial Bay Gool assembly hall, Arakoon State Conservation Area

Bonville Creek. Explore Bonville and Pine creeks by canoe from the launching pontoon or enjoy an easy walk from Tuckers Rocks. Camping isn't permitted in the park but there's accommodation in the area, including privately owned caravan parks at Mylestom and Sawtell. No vehicles are permitted on the beach north of Bundagen Head.

**Access** 10 km south of Coffs Harbour via Williams Road (closed sunset to sunrise) or Tuckers Rock Road (unsealed) from Repton, Overhead Bridge Road (unsealed) or Lyons Road off the Pacific Highway

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

#### 6 Boorganna Nature Reserve 390 ha



**Highlights** One of the oldest nature reserves in the state (1908), the reserve contains five types of forest, including rainforest, and is a sanctuary for a variety of flora and fauna.

**Activities** A signed walking track through the forest leads to views of the gorge created by Rawson Falls. The varied birdlife is best observed during the early hours of the day.

### Rainforests of NSW

#### Types of NSW rainforest:

- **Coastal rainforest** is found along the coast from the north coast to the south coast. It is the most common type of rainforest in NSW.
- **Mountain rainforest** is found in the mountains of the north coast and the south coast. It is the second most common type of rainforest in NSW.
- **Temperate rainforest** is found in the mountains of the north coast and the south coast. It is the third most common type of rainforest in NSW.
- **Subtropical rainforest** is found in the mountains of the north coast and the south coast. It is the fourth most common type of rainforest in NSW.
- **Swamp rainforest** is found in the mountains of the north coast and the south coast. It is the fifth most common type of rainforest in NSW.

far-north coast but extends to the south coast. (Luka Nature)

#### Rainforest Reserves of Australia

#### Wild Rivers National Park

Wild Rivers National Park is a large, remote, and rugged area of rainforest in the north-west of NSW. It is home to a wide variety of plants and animals, including many rare and endangered species. The park is also a popular destination for bushwalkers and canoeists.

The park is a long, narrow strip of land, and is surrounded by plenty of farms. It is a beautiful area, with a mix of rainforest and open land. The park is a great place to see some of the best of NSW's natural beauty.

#### For more information:



Access 40 km north of Taree along Innes View Road from the Wingham-Comboyne Road, from Wauchope via Comboyne off the Oxley Highway or from Kew off the Pacific Highway

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

## 7 Booti Booti National Park 1567 ha



**Highlights** Wallis Lake and beautiful beaches of all shapes and sizes offer good fishing, swimming and boating. The lookout tower on Cape Hawke offers 360° views over the forests of Booti Booti and Wallingat national parks, the foothills of the Barrington Tops, Seal Rocks and Crowdy Bay.

**Activities** Wallis Lake, on the western boundary, is popular for boating and windsurfing. Cape Hawke has one of the state's most significant stands of coastal littoral rainforest. There's car-based camping (2WD access in all weather) at The Ruins (fees

### Triggerplant

The triggerplant has a curious and ingenious way of distributing its pollen.

When an insect lands on the flower, the column bearing the pollen flicks forward, hitting the insect and showering it with pollen. When the insect flies away, it's well coated in pollen for fertilising other triggerplants. Triggerplants are found in the Australian Alps and along the coast north of Sydney, as well as in other states.

apply). Wood fires are not permitted anywhere in the park or on the beaches.

Access 10 km south of Forster on The Lakes Way. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee

Pacific Palms, 6591 0300  
Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 8 Burning Mountain Nature Reserve 15 ha



**Highlights** Early explorers assumed Burning Mountain's billowing smoke and peak of grey, smoldering ash was a volcano, but it's actually a natural slow-burning coal seam, one of very few in the world

**Activities** Signs along the walk from the rest area explain the effects of the underground fire on the landscape, the regeneration process and the significance of the area to Aboriginal people. There are good views of the Hunter Valley and Wingen Mard Nature Reserve, and great photo opportunities. Nearby visitor facilities are administered by Scone Council

Access 24 km north of Scone. Entry is off the New England Highway north of Wingen

Scone, 6540 2300  
Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 9 Cascade National Park 3620 ha



**Highlights** Beautiful subtropical and warm temperate rainforest, including booyong, crabapple and coachwood trees, surround the village of Cascade. The forest is an

important habitat for many upland rainforest amphibians, such as the giant barred frog, stuttering frog and pouched frog.

**Activities** The Box Ridge walking track (1 km medium grade) takes you through a delightful corner of the park

Access 18 km north of Dorrigo on the Cascade Road (unsealed)

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

## 10 Crowdy Bay National Park 9948 ha



**Highlights** The sculpted rock formations of Diamond Head jut more than 100 metres above Crowdy Bay. Australian author Kylie Tennant lived and wrote beneath the head, and her hut has been restored and maintained

**Activities** At low tide you can explore the rocks and pools below the cliffs. There's good fishing, birdwatching and fascinating headland walks with abundant wildlife. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Diamond Head, Indian Head and Kyles Beach. Camping fees apply. Bring your own drinking water, firewood is sold on site

Access 25 km north-east of Taree off the Pacific Highway at Moorland; 3 km south of Launetion via the coast road from Port Macquarie or 13 km east of Kew via Launetion and the coast road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

### Looking for a waterfall?

You'll find waterfalls in national parks and reserves across the state, from thundering cliff-top plunges to peaceful splashing rock falls. Some come to life after periods of rain, others gush or trickle throughout the year. If you're looking for the kind of natural calm only a waterfall can offer, ask at the NPWS office near the park you'll be visiting.

Within 100 km of Sydney, easily-reached viewing platforms look out over rivers cascading from the sandstone escarpment of the Blue Mountains. Govt's Leap near Blackheath and Katoomba Cascades are wheelchair accessible and it's a short easy walk to see Wentworth Falls from Princess Rock lookout. Smaller, quieter falls babble throughout Royal National Park,

including National, Currumbong and Watamolla Falls. Further south, you can look down on Fitzroy Falls in Morton National Park or take the paved walkway to Budderoo's Minnamurra Falls.

In north-east NSW, the Waterfall Way runs from Armidale to Coffs Harbour, connecting a string of national parks (many World Heritage listed) including Oxley Wild Rivers, New England, Cascade and Dorrigo. The area boasts many of the state's greatest falls, including Dangars, Ebor, Crystal Showers and the massive Wollomombi. For more information, contact the NPWS Armidale office on 6776 4260 or pick up a copy of the free brochure, *National Parks of the Waterfall Way*.







Dooragan Head, Dorrigir National Park

## 11 Dooragan National Park

1042 ha



**Highlights** Local Aboriginal legend tells of the death of three brothers. North Brother Mountain, at the heart of the park, is the resting place of Dooragan, the youngest. The mountain supports a variety of coastal forests and rainforests, providing habitat for gliders, bats and koalas

**Activities** Enjoy grand coastal views from the mountain summit, which is accessible by sealed road. The three wheelchair-accessible lookouts and picnic area have facilities and walking tracks

**Access** 10 km east of Kew. Take the Kew Road to Launetion, turn right onto the Captain Cook Bicentennial Road

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

## 12 Dorrigir National Park

11,871 ha



**Highlights** Dorrigir's renowned boardwalks make its rainforests on the edge of the Great Escarpment one of Australia's most accessible World Heritage areas.

**Activities** Venture out on the Skywalk (70 metres, level) and Walk with the Birds (500

metres return, seating provided) — both are suitable for wheelchairs. Picnic with the brush turkeys at The Glade, visit the Dorrigir Rainforest Centre and Canopy Cafe or take one of the frequent *Discovery* tours. Try the waterfall tracks such as the Wonga Walk, a three hour sealed return walk through World Heritage rainforest, or one of the more challenging walks at Never Never picnic area

**Access** 2 km east of Dorrigir on Dome Road.

Dorrigir, 6657 2309

### Dorrigir Rainforest Centre

Dorrigir National Park  
Dorrigir  
Ph: 6657 2309



The Dorrigir Rainforest Centre and Skywalk are only an hour's drive west of Coffs Harbour. A new interactive display guides visitors of all ages through different aspects of this World Heritage-listed rainforest, and staff can provide detailed information on national parks throughout north-east NSW. The Rainforest Shop (open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm) sells specialised books and guides, posters, prints, cards, local crafts, T-shirts and souvenirs with a rainforest theme. The Canopy Cafe (open 7 days a week, 9 am to 4 pm) offers delicious lunches, gourmet cakes and great coffee. All facilities are accessible and there are wheelchairs and child carriages available. The centre is closed Christmas Day.

## 13 Dunggir National Park

2500 ha

**Highlights** Ridges thick with blackbutt, brush box and blue gum and shaded rainforest gullies shelter koalas, yellow-bellied gliders and glossy black cockatoos. Bowra Sugarloaf Mountain looks out over the surrounding forest and distant coast

**Activities** There are no picnic areas or walking tracks but you can reach Kosekai lookout by road (unsealed, 4WD needed in wet weather) or explore the mountain on foot if you're an experienced walker

**Access** 20 km west of Bowraville on Kosekai Road off Taylors Arm Road

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 14 Glenrock State Conservation Area

516 ha



**Highlights** A coastal strip, bounded by the suburbs of Merewether and Dudley, protect the last remnant of coastal (littoral) rainforest in the Newcastle region

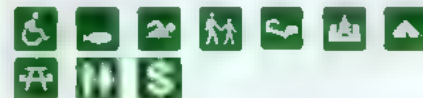
**Activities** Swim, surf or fish at Dudley or Burwood beach, picnic at Dudley Beach, or walk the Yeulbah track, part of the Great North Walk

**Access** 160 km north of Sydney, 5 km east of Charlestown off Burwood Road via Dudley Road, and 5 km south of Newcastle via the Pacific Highway

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 15 Hat Head National Park

7363 ha



**Highlights** A rich coastal environment with one of the largest dune systems in NSW and superb views from Hat Head and nearby Smoky Cape

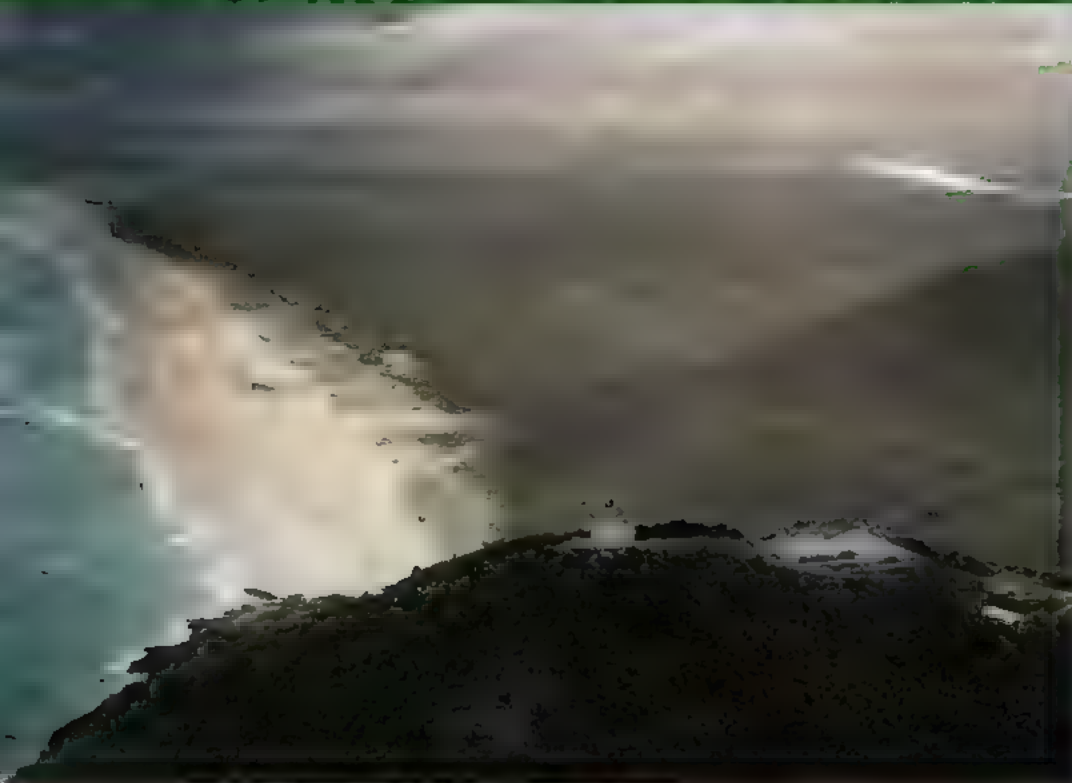
**Activities** Historic Smoky Cape Lighthouse offers tours and accommodation in the assistant lighthouse keeper's cottages (for bookings phone 6566 6301). Captain Cook lookout has wheelchair access, and there's a picnic area with facilities at Smoky Cape. Car-based and caravan camping are available at Smoky Beach and Hungry Head. Camping fees apply.

Any questions call 1300 361 967









Smoky Cape Lighthouse, Hat Head National Park

## 21 Lord Howe Island Marine Park 48,000 ha



**Highlights** The marine park surrounding Lord Howe Island contains the world's southernmost barrier coral reef. The island's marine environment holds over 300 species of algae (around one-tenth of which are unique to the area), over 450 species of fish (also around one-tenth unique to the area) and over 120 species of mollusc.

Green and Hawksbill turtles are common in summer, but may be observed throughout the year.

**Activities** Swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving are all popular in the crystal waters of the park, and boat trips and diving tours operate from the island. Accommodation is available in lodges on the island.

**Access** 700 km north-east of Sydney. The island can be reached by a regular air service from Sydney.

**Manager, Lord Howe Island Marine Park, 6563 2359**

## 22 Macquarie Nature Reserve 12 ha



**Highlights** The historic Roto House sits amidst a tranquil natural setting near the heart of Port Macquarie.

**Activities** Visit the nearby koala hospital and look for koalas in the trees. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the spacious gardens or on most days of the year volunteers can take you on a tour of the house. Wheelchair access is available to Roto House and verandahs.

**Access** In Port Macquarie, just off Lord Street.

**Port Macquarie, 6586 8300**  
**Roto House, 6584 2180**

## 23 Moonee Beach Nature Reserve 336 ha



**Highlights** A precious remnant of coastline just north of Coffs Harbour protecting rare headland plants, coastal littoral rainforest and a pristine estuary.

**Activities** There are great coastal views from the wheelchair-accessible headland lookout and walking tracks from Emerald Beach. Look At Me Now Headland is spiritually significant to local Aboriginal communities. Camping is not permitted but there are privately owned caravan parks at Moonee and Emerald Beach.

## Whale watching



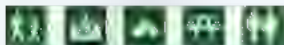
physical contact



Access 13–23 km north of Coffs Harbour off the Pacific Highway. Moonsee Creek is on Moonsee Beach Road. Look At Me Now Headland is on Dammerel Crescent at Emerald Beach.

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 24 Mount Royal National Park 6920 ha



**Highlights** An array of rainforest, shrubland and eucalypts provide habitats for threatened species such as the Hastings River mouse and parma wallaby.

**Activities** Enjoy bushwalking, picnicking and birdwatching in this unspoiled environment. The park is accessible by 2WD but there is no vehicle access at all in wet weather. The camping area off Main Range Road has gas barbecues and accessible toilets.

Access 50 km north of Singleton. Enter from Bridgeman Road off the New England Highway.

Bulga, 6574 5275

## 25 Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve 8 ha



**Highlights** Each year, thousands of muttonbirds come to the most significant breeding site in the state. The reserve is also a significant Aboriginal site.

**Activities** A paved walking track crosses the island between the birds' fragile burrows. Enjoy the seascape and passing whales (June to September) from the viewing platform, and great views of Solitary Islands Marine Park and adjacent coast. Camping is not permitted in the reserve but there's plenty of accommodation at Coffs Harbour.



Sheltered waterways in Myall Lakes National Park.

**Access** In Coffs Harbour at the eastern end of the northern breakwall at Coffs Harbour jetty.

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 26 Myall Lakes National Park 44,200 ha



**Highlights** One of the state's largest coastal lake systems — a Ramsar Wetland of International Significance — 40 km of beaches and rolling sand dunes make Myall Lakes one of the most visited parks in NSW. The Grandis, a magnificent 76-metre-high flooded gum, is one of the tallest trees in the state.

**Activities** The lakes and beaches are perfect for water activities — and if you don't have your own craft, you can hire one locally. There's car-based and caravan camping at Mungo Brush, Banksia Green, Stewarts and Lloyds, Old Gibber Track, Kersmans Landing, Violet Hill, Sunny Side, Shell Beach, Neranie and Yagon (tees apply). Most camping areas offer basic facilities, but bring your own drinking water and firewood. Between Hawks Nest and Big Gibber you can go 4WD beach driving (except between Dark Point and Sandy Point, check before you go) but do not drive on the dunes or vegetation. The Grandis is accessible along Stoney Creek Road from either the Lakes Way or Old Pacific Highway. O'Sullivan's Gap picnic area, on the Old Pacific Highway 9 km north of Bulahdelah, offers short walks.

**Access** 35 km south of Forster off The Lakes Way. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Pacific Palms, 6591 0300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

### Swimming safely at the beach

Swimming is a popular holiday activity, but it's important to take precautions to stay safe. Always check the beach conditions before you go. If you're unsure, ask a lifeguard or a local resident.

#### Important to take precautions:

- Only swim during daylight hours.
- Look for a non-surf beach (e.g. on a bay).
- Check the beach conditions before you go.
- If you're unsure, ask a lifeguard or a local resident.

Be careful of the 'rogue' wave could wash you off.

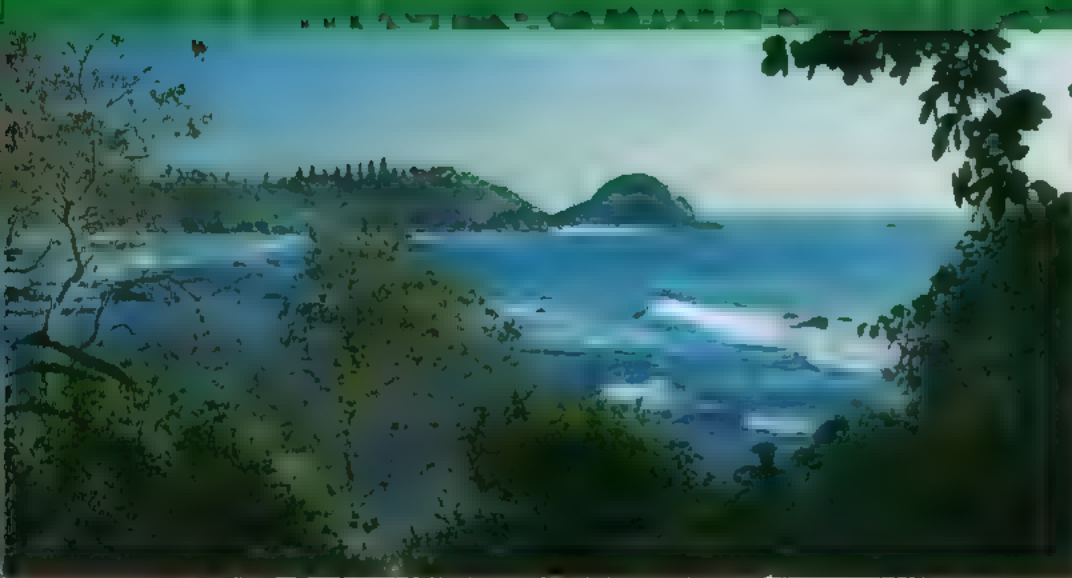
It's important to take precautions when swimming. Always check the beach conditions before you go. If you're unsure, ask a lifeguard or a local resident.

minutes after being angered)

clothing and a hat.

For more information, see pages 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.





## 27 Ngambaa Nature Reserve 10,555 ha



**Highlights** Ngambaa is located on the boundary between the Gumbayngirr and Djabirr language groups, and the name means 'tribe that lived between nations'. Large areas of old-growth forest protect a number of threatened species, such as the powerful owl, koala and giant barred frog.

**Activities** The scenic Tamban Forest Drive from the Pacific Highway near Kempsey leads to Cedar Park picnic area, where a short walking track reveals the delights of this rainforest remnant.

**Access** 20 km north of Kempsey along Tamban, Elliotts and Sanders roads from Eungai Creek or Collombatti, then Range Road from Frederickton (unsealed roads, 4WD needed in wet weather).

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 28 Nymboi-Binderay National Park 16,870 ha



**Highlights** The dramatic granite gorges and rainforest-lined banks of the rugged Nymboida River produce rapids renowned among white-water enthusiasts.

**Activities** Rafting is certainly the best way to fully appreciate the stunning beauty of the river and several commercial operators conduct tours in the park. If walking is more to your taste, you can wander through a magnificent stand of rallowood trees and coachwood rainforest at Norman W Jolly Memorial Grove (wheelchair accessible). Picnicking, swimming and car-based camping (not suitable for caravans) are available at Platypus Flat (unsealed; 4WD when wet) and The Junction (4WD only) on the Nymboida River. Camping fees apply.

Access 25 km north of Dorrigo on Moonpar Road (unsealed; 4WD when wet) off Iyrlingham Road or Moses Rock Road (unsealed) from the village of Cascade. Access to the northern part of the park is on Black Mountain Road via Grafton, Nymboida or Glenreagh (unsealed, 4WD only).

Dorrigo, 6657 2309  
Grafton, 6641 1500

## 29 Sea Acres Nature Reserve 76 ha



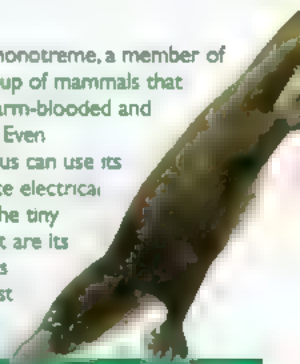
**Highlights** The Sea Acres coastal rainforest community is the largest and most diverse in the region. The forest runs right down to the beach, so you can enjoy the stillness and beauty or the roar of the surf.

**Activities** Get into the rainforest canopy on the 1.3 km wheelchair-accessible boardwalk — a fee for the boardwalk applies at the privately run rainforest centre within the reserve. You can walk in to Shelly Beach off Pacific Drive and Miners Beach off Lighthouse Road.

**Access** In Port Macquarie on Pacific Drive  
Sea Acres Rainforest Centre, 6582 3355

### Platypus

The platypus is a monotreme, a member of a small, ancient group of mammals that lay eggs, but are warm-blooded and suckle their young. Even stranger, the platypus can use its bill to detect minute electrical fields given off by the tiny aquatic animals that are its prey. The platypus is found along the east coast of Australia.



do a lot more as well, including:

- establishing and maintaining tracks, visitor

our NSW:

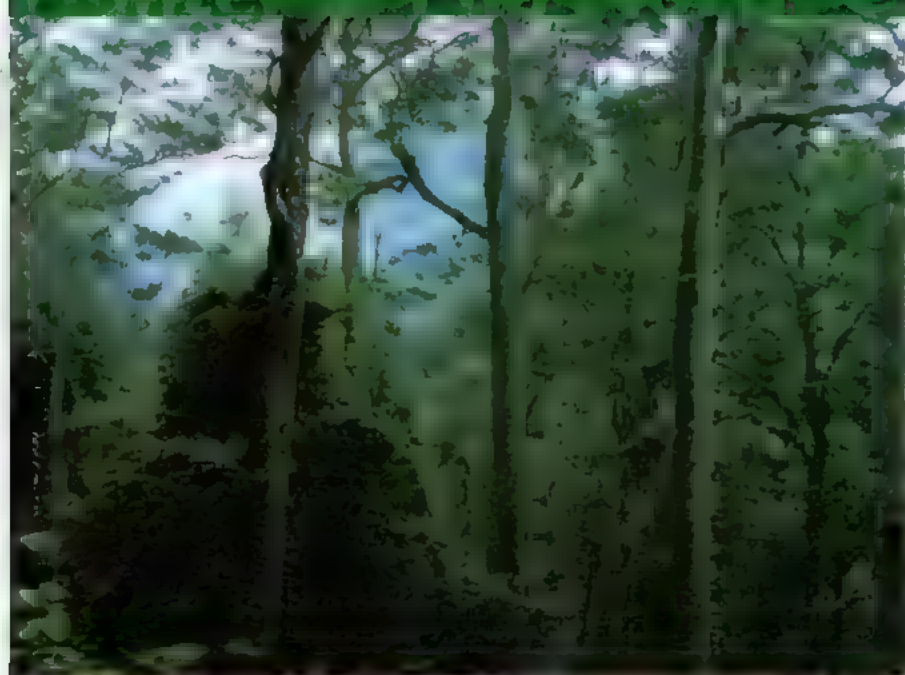
and appre-

cation of nature and our cultural heritage:

natural and cultural environments of NSW:

Donations are tax deductible.





Near the Dingo tops forest park in Dingo tops National Park

### Sea Acres Rainforest Centre

Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie  
Ph: 6582 3355



The privately run rainforest centre offers guided boardwalk tours, a theatre and ecology display. Dine indoors or under the palms in the centre's rainforest cafe. The shop provides information on local national parks and sells a wide range of books, posters, clothing and gifts. There's an entry fee to the boardwalk and display — the fee also applies to NPWS annual pass holders. The centre is open 7 days, 9 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).

### 30 Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve 11 ha



**Highlights** The swamp is an important habitat for the cattle egret and numerous other bird species. The reserve also protects a historic quarry containing scientifically important 90–120 million-year-old sediments from ancient glacial thaw water.

**Activities** The observation tower makes an excellent spot to watch birds in their natural state. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** On the corner of Torrence and Warren Streets in Seaham township, 12 km north-west of Raymond Terrace.

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

### 31 Tapin Tops National Park 10,976 ha



**Highlights** Brushwood and moist eucalypt forest gives way to rainforest dominated by corkwood, crabapple, sassafras and booyong trees, while yellow carabeen are found in the higher areas. The unique habitat is home to threatened species such as the parma wallaby, squirrel glider and sphagnum frog.

**Activities** Rowleys Lookout (1018 metres, strenuous 45-minute walk from carpark) offers a sweeping view of Head and Shoulders Cliff. Dingo Tops forest park, in the middle of the rainforest, has picnic facilities, forestry machinery relics and two walking trails. There's another picnic area at Potoroo, and car-based camping at the intersection of Knodding Road and Dingo Tops Road (short walk from carpark).

**Access** 44 km west of Wingham along the Dingo Tops Forest Road.

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

### 32 The Glen Nature Reserve 2750 ha



**Highlights** The heavily forested catchment of Wards River boasts magnificent eucalypt stands and lush subtropical rainforest gullies. The reserve provides habitat for the squirrel glider, yellow-bellied glider, masked owl, Stephens banded snake and other threatened fauna.

**Activities** The 220 km Tops-to-Myall Heritage Walking Trail passes through the reserve. Numerous management trails provide varied bushwalking experiences generally classified medium to hard grade. Car-based (but not caravan) camping is available at Wards Glen, in the west of the reserve, accessible by 2WD when dry.

**Access** 25 km south-east of Gloucester on Glen Road (unsealed) off Bucketts Way just south of Craven.

Barrington Tops, 6538 5300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

### 33 Tomaree National Park 2318 ha



**Highlights** Rocky headlands and plenty of white sandy beaches are backed by angophora and melaleuca forest and spring flowering heath.

**Activities** Take a walk to the top of Tomaree Headland for superb views of Port Stephens and the coast, or to Fingal Island and explore the grounds of the Point Stephens Lighthouse. There's good rock and beach fishing and though camping isn't permitted, there's accommodation at nearby Shoal Bay and Nelson Bay. Nude bathing is permitted at Samurai Beach.

**Access** 50 km north of Newcastle, 3 km north-east of Nelson Bay off Shoal Bay Road or Gan Gan Road.

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

### 34 Towarri National Park 4787 ha



**Highlights** Sandstone outcrops and scenic outlooks feature in a rugged landscape harbouring rainforests, snow gums and large grass tree stands.

**Activities** There are no defined paths at this stage, but steep hills and spectacular summit views offer a rewarding challenge for experienced bushwalkers. The Washpools picnic and camping area has wheelchair access and is a great place to bring the family.

**Access** 25 km north-west of Scone via Middlebrook Road (unsealed) and off Cressfield Road.

Scone, 6540 2300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200





Tamaree National Park

### 35 Ulidarra National Park

680 ha

**Highlights** Near Coffs Harbour and adjoining Bruxner Park Flora Reserve, Ulidarra's old-growth coastal eucalypt forest provides habitats for a diverse range of fauna, including koalas, masked owls, wompoo pigeons and little bent-wing bats.

**Activities** The drive through the park from Bruxner Park to Karangi offers lovely views, and you're sure to find a cool spot for a picnic beside Bucca Bucca Creek on Shelter Road.

**Access** 5 km north of Coffs Harbour via Swans Road off Bruxner Park Road, or Convincing Ground Road off Coramba Road (unsealed roads; 4WD needed when wet)

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

### 36 Wallingat National Park

6557 ha



**Highlights** Whoota Lookout, one of the best natural viewing platforms on the mid-north coast, provides magnificent views of the park's eucalypt forests and 100 km of coastline from Port Macquarie to Port Stephens.

**Activities** Walking tracks lead from Sugar Creek through cabbage palm and flooded gum forests. There are picnic facilities at Sugar Creek, Gur-um-bee ('white gum tree') and Wallingat River. Car-based camping (fees apply, caravans not recommended) is available by the Wallingat River.

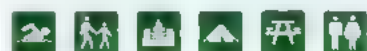
**Access** 30 km south-east of Forster along the Lakes Way and Sugar Creek Road. All roads within the park are unsealed — take care after rain.

Pacific Palms, 6591 0300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

### 37 Watagans National Park

7751 ha



**Highlights** This park protects the headwaters of the Congewai and Quorrobolong creeks, which flow into the Hunter River, and the Gap and Dora creeks, which feed Lake Macquarie.

## The different types of parks

There are many different types of parks in New South Wales, each with its own unique characteristics and purposes. Some parks are primarily for recreation, while others are focused on conservation or scientific research. The size of the parks also varies greatly, from small urban parks to large wilderness areas.

### different sorts of visitor access

Some parks have easy access for all visitors, while others require a 4WD vehicle or a guided tour. Some parks have designated picnic areas, while others have no facilities at all.

### access and enjoyment for visitors

Some parks have a wide range of recreational activities, including walking, cycling, and fishing. Others are more focused on nature appreciation and photography.

### landscape of cultural significance

Some parks have a high level of cultural significance, either due to their historical importance or their natural beauty.

### plant and animal communities

Some parks are home to rare and endangered plant and animal species, while others have a more diverse range of flora and fauna.

### rule out mining interests

Some parks are established to protect areas of potential mining interest, while others are established to protect areas of natural beauty.

### allowed in other protected areas

Some parks are established to protect areas that are not covered by other protected areas, while others are established to protect areas that are already protected.

### recreational activities

Aboriginal areas see page 10

Wilderness areas see page 13



**Activities** Magnificent red cedar and Illawarra flame trees line the walk to Gap Creek Falls, where the lookout provides marvellous views of rainforest gullies, while Monkey Face Lookout sits above the Martinsville Valley. Boarding House Dam picnic area, set among large blackbutt and blue gum trees, offers rainforest walks along the creek, or a paddle on a hot summer's day. Car-based camping is available at the small Bangalow and Gap Creek camping areas adjacent to Bangalow Road, 3.8 km and 4.8 km respectively from the Mt Faulk Road intersection.

**Access** 150 km north of Sydney, 30 km south-west of Newcastle. Enter via Martinsville Road (unsealed) from Cooranbong, Mt Faulk Road (unsealed) from Freemans Waterhole, or Watagan Road (unsealed) from Cessnock. All roads are 2WD accessible in dry weather only.

Lake Munmorah, 4358 0400



Gap Creek falls. Wanderers' way and more.

### 38 Wingham Brush Nature Reserve 8 ha



NEW ENTRY

**Highlights** This remnant of sub-tropical floodplain rainforest is one of the most significant maternity sites in NSW for the grey-headed flying-fox.

**Activities** The short looped walk with boardwalk sections is ideal for early morning birdwatching (species include Lewin's honeyeater, white-headed and topknot pigeons, brown-cuckoo dove, figbird and green catbird). The adjoining riverside reserve provides picnic and toilet facilities.

### 39 Woko National Park 8598 ha



**Highlights** The steep and rugged landscape features large areas of rainforest, moist eucalypt forest and impressive rock outcrops. The tranquil Manning River is a wonderful spot to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

**Activities** If you're an adventurous bushwalker you'll be rewarded with dramatic scenery and wonderful birdwatching opportunities, but remember that the terrain is steep. Car-based and caravan camping is available on the Manning River bank (fees apply), where campers can enjoy a swim. Two walking tracks provide access to dry rainforests and the escarpment above the camping area.

**Access** 35 km north of Gloucester via Currumbark Road (unsealed) off Thunderbolts Way (Walcha Road).

Barrington Tops, 6538 5300  
Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

Woko National Park is a beautiful area with a rich biodiversity. It is a great place to enjoy the outdoors and experience the beauty of nature.

**created it. Activities include:**

- nocturnal wildlife
- environments
- dunes and seek out the inhabitants of rockpools
- far-along driving tours in the outback
- all the best spots
- of marine parks; and

**biodiversity surveys in local bushland.**

The Woko National Park is a great place to enjoy the outdoors and experience the beauty of nature. It is a great place to enjoy the outdoors and experience the beauty of nature.

**outsider's, and parts of western NSW.**

such as schools, social clubs or conferences. There's a fee for

for information contact a local tourism office.



# Sydney & Surrounds

Sydney is blessed with sheltered deep-water bays rimmed by bush, pockets of remnant natural bush throughout the suburbs and an outer green belt of diverse parks and wilderness. Around the city, sites tell the story of historic meetings of cultures and early European occupation. To the north, Brisbane Waters and the Hawkesbury River are a tangle of quiet, tree-lined bays; to the west, the age-old massive landscapes of the Blue Mountains protect sandstone cliff-lines and World Heritage bushland. Heading south, Australia's oldest national park links Metropolitan Sydney to the great southern escarpment, offering shaded valley walks a short hop from the city. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/sydney](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/sydney)



## 1 Bents Basin State Conservation Area 48 ha



**Highlights** The Basin forms a deep water-hole, part of a gorge on the Nepean River between Camden and Penrith, that's a popular spot for people escaping Sydney

**Activities** Enjoy water-based activities such as swimming and canoeing. There are picnic areas with barbecues, fireplaces and accessible toilet facilities (though the Basin is not accessible by wheelchair). Car-based and caravan camping is available in the camping area (bookings required and fees apply)

Access 70 km west of Sydney, 25 km south of Penrith along Wolstenholme Avenue off

Greendale Road from Wallacia in the north or Liverpool in the east. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee

Bents Basin, 4774 8662

## 2 Berowra Valley Regional Park 3870 ha



**Highlights** An area of natural bushland along the Berowra Creek Valley, one of the deep and scenic gorges that dissect the Hornsby Plateau. The park protects a rich diversity of flora and fauna including the koala, spotted-tailed quoll and powerful owl

**Activities** There are extensive walking tracks, including a section of the Great North Walk, and scenic lookouts at Barnett's Road Reserve and Galston Gorge. Canoeing is popular on Berowra Creek from Crosslands Reserve. Picnic

facilities are provided in many areas, including Crosslands Reserve, Barnett's Road Reserve and Blue Gum picnic area. Backpack camping is permitted at approved locations along the Great North Walk. Due to bushfire threat, gas fires (rather than wood) are preferred throughout the park

Access 24 km north-west of Sydney. The main access point is Crosslands Reserve at the end of Somerville Road, Hornsby Heights

Bobbin Head Information Centre,  
9472 8949

Hornsby Shire Council, 9847 6791

## 3 Blue Mountains National Park 266,859 ha

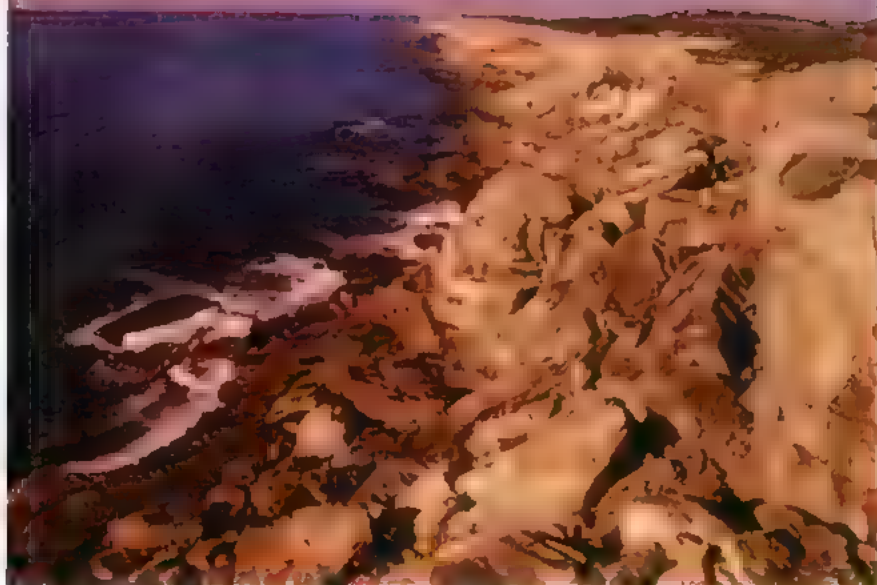


**Highlights** A World Heritage landscape that once intimidated explorers but now delights visitors. Famous lookouts and waterfalls around Govetts Leap (Blackheath), Echo Point (Katoomba) and Wentworth Falls provide panoramic views of open forest and huge sandstone cliffs

**Activities** Over 140 km of walking tracks of all grades (some accessible for people with a disability) in diverse settings make the Blue Mountains a bushwalker's paradise. See the Three Sisters from the Giant Stairway at Echo Point, or explore the historic Mt Werong and Ruby Creek area (south of Oberon). The NPWS Heritage Centre at Blackheath and visitor centres at Echo Point and Oberon provide information on local walking tracks. The Fairfax Heritage Track at Blackheath is a wheelchair-accessible track to Govetts Leap Lookout, and the Conservation Hut and Wentworth Falls picnic area also have great views that are wheelchair accessible. A Discovery program of walks and activities operates every weekend and during school holidays

Car-based camping is available at Euroka (near Glenbrook; bookings required and camping fees apply, book at Richmond); Murphys Glen (near Woodford); Ingar





Cape Solander Botany Bay National Park

picnic area (drive from Wentworth Falls, camp a short walk from carpark); Perrys Lookdown (near Blackheath; short walk from carpark), Batsh Camp (short walk from carpark) and Mt Werong on the Oberon-Colong Stock Route to Yerrandene. Backpack camping is permitted in most areas (for details phone Blackheath).

**Access** 50–110 km west of Sydney with entry points off the Great Western Highway between Glenbrook and Mt Victoria and the Oberon-Colong Stock Route. Close to railway stations at Glenbrook, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, Blackheath and Mt Victoria. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Glenbrook only.

**Upper:** Blackheath, 4787 8877  
**Eastern:** Richmond, 4588 5247  
**Western:** Oberon, 6336 1972

### Blue Mountains Heritage Centre and National Parks Shop

Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath  
 Ph: 4787 8877, Fax: 4787 8514



The centre provides information on Blue Mountains National Park and surrounding areas, an interactive educational display, video screenings and a gallery. You can purchase National Parks walking track guides, maps; books on the Blue Mountains, Aboriginal history, and flora and fauna; and Australian-made souvenirs, clothing and gifts. Open 7 days, 9 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 4 Botany Bay National Park 458 ha



**Highlights** The two headlands of Botany Bay (La Perouse and Kurnell) are rich in Aboriginal and European history. In 1770 the area was the meeting place of cultures and it still is today.

**Activities** At La Perouse you can take a tour of Bare Island Fort, learn about the area at Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre, or enjoy one of the local beaches (excellent for diving). At Kurnell visit the Discovery Centre's museum and shop, or join an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger for an insight into living with the land — phone 9542 0649 for Discovery information and bookings. The Banks-Solander track is a self-guided walk. The Monument Track is self-guided and wheelchair-accessible, and Cape Sorence provides a superb vantage point for watching seasonal whale migrations.

**Access** 15–30 km south of Sydney. Entry to La Perouse is from Anzac Parade. Entry to Kurnell is from the end of Captain Cook Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Kurnell.

**Kurnell, 9668 9111**  
**La Perouse, 9311 3379 or 9247 5033**  
 (tour bookings)

### Caley's grevillea

This endangered shrub is now restricted to a small area in Sydney's northern suburbs — much of its habitat has been destroyed by land clearing, dumped rubbish and weeds. The NPWS has developed a recovery plan for the species and is working with local councils, government agencies and other land managers to conserve its natural habitat.



## World Heritage in NSW

World Heritage Sites are places of outstanding universal value. They are places that are so important that they should be preserved for the benefit of all people.

**China and the Great Barrier Reef.** At last count, there were 730

three of them are in mainland NSW.

**The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia** are 370,000

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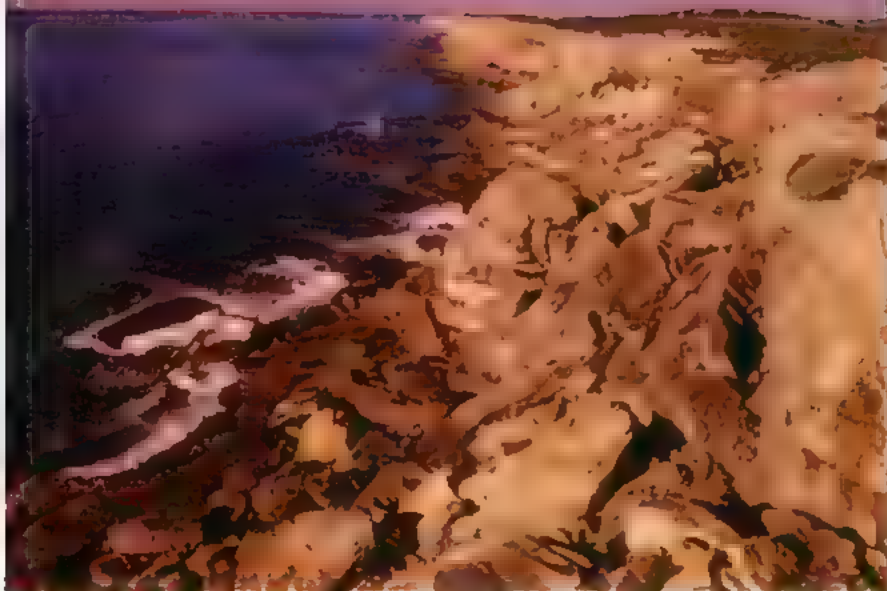
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of Aboriginal settlement and European colonisation.





Cape Banks, Botany Bay National Park

picnic area (drive from Wentworth Falls camp a short walk from carpark); Perrys Lookdown (near Blackheath; short walk from carpark); Batsh Camp (short walk from carpark) and Mt Werong on the Oberon-Colong Stock Route to Yerranderie. Backpack camping is permitted in most areas (for details phone Blackheath).

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La Perouse, 9311 3379 or 9247 5033  
(tour bookings)

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three of them are in mainland NSW.

The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia are 370,000

of the world's rainforests. The forest protects an extraordinary

that are rare or threatened.

Mungo National Park in the Murray-Darling basin

have been

unique opportunities for scientific research.

has been described as a natural laboratory for the evolution of

of Aboriginal settlement and European colonisation.



## Discovery Centre, Botany Bay National Park

Kurnell  
Ph: 9668 9111



The centre's exhibition 'Eight Days that Changed the World' is an interpretation of the first contact between Aboriginal people and the crew of the *Endeavour* under the command of James Cook. Displays provide information about this highly sensitive coastal peninsula, with its wetlands, heathlands and woodland forest communities — direct descendants of those studied by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, who accompanied Cook in 1770. The display areas and toilets are wheelchair accessible. The shop has a range of books, maps, gifts, souvenirs and refreshments. Open 10 am to 4.30 pm every weekend (closed Christmas Day); also open 11 am to 3 pm weekdays.



### Little penguin

Smallest of all the penguins, the little or fairy penguin grows to only 45 cm tall.

The only known colony of these flightless seabirds in mainland NSW is in a secluded cove in Sydney Harbour near Manly.

## Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre, Botany Bay National Park

Cable Station, Anzac Parade  
La Perouse  
Ph: 9311 3379

The museum stands on the site of the first landing of the First Fleet in January 1788, followed days later by the French explorer Comte de Lapérouse. The museum has exhibitions on Australian history and La Perouse community heritage. Take a tour of Bare Island Fort on weekends; phone 9247 5033 for school holiday programs and special group activities. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday).

## 5 Bouddi National Park

1216 ha



**Highlights** This park has a series of small, beautiful beaches beneath forests, steep hills and cliffs. Maitland Bay is at the heart of the 300 ha Marine Extension, one of the first in NSW, where all marine life is protected.

**Activities** There are opportunities for fishing (except in the 'marine extension' between Gernin Point and Bombi Point), but take care in all ocean-facing areas. Drop in at the

Maitland Bay Information Centre, staffed by local volunteers on weekends, for information about the park. Car-based camping is available at Putty Beach, (short walk from carpark; campervans and camper trailers not allowed, gas barbecues, toilets, town water, no showers) and there's backpack camping at Little Beach (700 metres from carpark, gas barbecues, composting toilets, bring your own water) and Tallow Beach (1 km from carpark, limited facilities). Camping fees apply and bookings are essential.

Access 95 km north of Sydney, 19 km south-east of Gosford along Avoca Drive and Scenic Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Putty Beach. Catch a Busways bus from Gosford Railway Station (phone 4368 2277 for details).

Gosford, 4320 4280

## 6 Brisbane Water National Park 11,455 ha



**Highlights** This sandstone landscape is rich in Aboriginal art. You can see engravings at Bulgandry on Woy Woy Road (accessible boardwalk, but take care if sight-impaired as boardwalk is raised), and there are sweeping water views from Warrah Trig and Staples Lookout.

**Activities** Somersby Falls (accessible toilets) and Gurrakool picnic areas have excellent picnic facilities and forest walks. Backpack

## Bushfire in NSW

NSW is a bushfire-prone state. Bushfires are a natural part of the landscape and can be a valuable part of the environment. However, they can also be a major hazard to life and property. The NSW Government has a range of measures in place to reduce the risk of bushfires, including:
 

- Fire bans: These are put in place to reduce the risk of bushfires during dry periods.
- Fire management: This involves controlling fires in a way that reduces the risk of bushfires.
- Fire education: This involves teaching people about the risks of bushfires and how to reduce them.

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

If you're planning a visit to a park or a reserve during the fire season, keep these points in mind:

- Follow all fire bans and restrictions.
- Follow instructions from a park officer.
- Use electric torches in and around tents.
- Use gas or electric barbecues when they're provided, otherwise use a portable gas stove.

• Turn off all stoves before you leave or go to bed.

• If you have a total fire ban, consider postponing your trip.

• If you have a total fire ban, follow the rules of the local NPWS office — otherwise the rules are the same as a total fire ban.

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camping is available for walkers using the Great North Walk, but there are no facilities. No fires are permitted, fuel stoves only.

**Access** 60 km north of Sydney, 9 km south-west of Gosford. Gurrakool is near Old Sydney Town off the Pacific Highway; Somersby Falls is along Somersby Falls Road off Wisemans Ferry Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Somersby Falls and Gurrakool picnic areas.

Gosford, 4320 4280

## 7 Burratorang State Conservation Area

17,642 ha



**Highlights** Burratorang Lookout is a window on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and provides breathtaking views of Lake Burratorang and the Nattai wilderness at any time of day.

**Activities** Shaded tables and barbecues are ideal for family picnics. Viewing points provide scenic vistas unparalleled in the district and open areas provide play opportunities for the kids.

**Access** 80 km south-west of Sydney, 20 km west of Camden along Burratorang Road. Open 10 am to 5 pm daily. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Picton, 4677 0859

## 8 Cadmans Cottage Historic Site



**Highlights** Built in 1816, Cadmans Cottage is one of only a handful of Sydney buildings that remain from the first 30 years of the colony. Over the years this sandstone cottage has been a water transport headquarters, a sailors' home and a water police station, among other things. It used to be beside the water, but since the construction of Circular Quay the harbour has 'moved' 100 metres away.

**Activities** The cottage now houses the Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre (see page 3). On the lower level there's a fascinating (free) exhibition on the building's history, its relationship to Sydney Cove, and life in early Sydney.

**Access** In Sydney at 110 George Street, The Rocks. Walk from Circular Quay Railway Station or catch any bus headed for Circular Quay or The Rocks.

The Rocks, 9247 5033

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



Karoompa Falls track, Blue Mountains National Park

## 9 Cattai National Park

424 ha



**Highlights** The Cattai Farm area, originally a land grant to First Fleet assistant surgeon Thomas Arndell, features Arndell's 1821 cottage, historic grain silos and ruins of a windmill believed to be the oldest industrial building in NSW. In a separate section, nearby Mitchell Park features a variety of plant communities, including rare riverine rainforest.

**Activities** Cattai Farm has grassy picnic areas, barbecues and shelter sheds beside the Hawkesbury River, and car-based camping is available year round (bookings essential). Mitchell Park has an extensive network of walking tracks, and there are picnic areas with barbecues beside scenic Cattai Creek.

**Access** 55 km north-west of Sydney, 13 km north of Windsor off the Cattai-Wisemans Ferry road (unsealed sections). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Windsor, 4572 3100

## 10 Dalrymple-Hay Nature Reserve

11 ha



**Highlights** The reserve's stand of blue gum high forest is one of Sydney's last remaining,

and is listed as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

**Activities** Escape from the busy rush of Sydney life on a walk among tall blue gums and blackbutts, surrounded by a variety of native birds, small mammals and reptiles.

**Access** In the suburb of St Ives, 15 km north of Sydney CBD. Enter via Mona Vale Road, Rosedale Road or Vista Street.

Lane Cove, 9412 1811

## 11 Dharawal State Conservation Area and Nature Reserve

6161 ha



**Highlights** The Woronora Plateau, west of the Illawarra Escarpment, supports a complex and diverse range of threatened species and vegetation communities, including upland swamps, shale forests and western gully forests (which are prime koala habitat).

**Activities** Enjoy bushwalking or mountain biking along the extensive network of management trails. Picturesque creek crossings provide opportunities for a photo or a dip.

**Access** 45 km south-west of Sydney via the Princes Highway. Entry is from Dargles Forest Road or the Bulli-Appin Road.

Wollongong, 4225 1455

Sydney & Surrounds



## 12 Dharug National Park

14,850 ha



**Highlights** The multi-hued sandstone landscape forms part of Sydney's green belt and protects vital clear-water tributaries to the Hawkesbury River.

**Activities** Try the 1.6 km Grass Tree Circuit or stroll a section of the convict-built Great North Road, one of the great construction feats of the early colony and recognised as a National Engineering Landmark. Picnic at Mill Creek or Hazel Dell (both have tank water). Discovery walks, talks and tours are available year round. The park is also good for mountain biking (bikes must be walked up Devines Hill); phone the Gosford office for details. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Mill Creek, and backpack camping at Ten Mile Hollow (fees apply and bookings are required).

**Access** 40 km north-east of Windsor. Mill Creek is 5 km east of Wisemans Ferry along Wisemans Ferry Road.

Gosford, 4320 4280

## 13 Garawarra State Conservation Area

900 ha



**Highlights** Echidnas and lyrebirds make their homes among the rainforest patches and colourful, prickly heaths bordering Royal National Park.

**Activities** Enjoy a walk among magnificent trees and springtime wildflowers.

**Access** 3 km south of Waterfall. No car access but you can walk from Waterfall or Helensburgh railway stations; phone for details.

Audley, 9542 0648

## 14 Gardens of Stone National Park

15,010 ha



**Highlights** 'Pagoda' rock formations cluster near sandstone escarpments where erosion has sculpted beehive-shaped domes and other forms. Banksias, dwarf casuarinas and other wind-pruned heathland plants give the area its garden-like appearance.

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Banksias in Dharug National State Conservation Area

**Activities** There are no established walking tracks but you'll find plenty of scope for hard bushwalks. Baal Bone Gap has basic picnic facilities (4WD necessary). Backpack camping more than 200 metres from roads is permitted in most areas of the park, though camping is not permitted in caves or within 200 metres of limestone and only fuel stoves are permitted. There are no designated camping areas, but you can camp outside the park at Capertee or Glen Davis, or at Newnes in Wollemi National Park.

**Access** 160–175 km north-west of Sydney, 30 km north of Lithgow off the Mudgee Road via unsealed roads from Lidsdale to the south (4WD in wet weather) or via Capertee to the north.

Blackheath, 4787 8877

## 15 Garigal National Park

2203 ha



**Highlights** An impressive expanse of bush and sandstone country close to the heart of Sydney, with great water views.

**Activities** Davidson picnic area on Middle Harbour is a popular spot for boating and fishing and has accessible toilet facilities. Bushwalkers can enjoy the scenery from an extensive walking track system. Camping is not permitted in the park.

**Access** 12 km north of Sydney CBD. Entry to Davidson picnic area is from the south via Warringah Road. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Forestville, 9451 3479

## 16 Georges River National Park

335 ha



**Highlights** Steep forested hillsides, plateaus and riverside flats conserve some of Sydney's best river habitat for native plants and animals.

**Activities** There are several popular riverside picnic areas, large and small, and a network of walking tracks. Stroll around peaceful Yeramba Lagoon, home to more than 100 bird species, or the Ridge Track, which offers spectacular river views.

**Access** 25 km south-west of Sydney along Henry Lawson Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Kurnell, 9668 9111

## 17 Hartley Historic Site

13 ha



**Highlights** Once a busy goldrush town, this well-preserved 19th-century village sits on the western edge of the Blue Mountains. The famous courthouse was built in the 1830s and was in operation for over 50 years. Absconding convicts, petty thieves, highway robbers, and the drunk and disorderly all came before the Hartley magistracy.

### Cumberland Plain land snail

Next time you go walking after rain in Western Sydney try to avoid treading on this rare species of snail. The trouble is it looks almost the same as the common garden snail, with a few subtle differences — it's a bit smaller, has a little lip on the edge of its shell, and is often greenish in colour. When young it has a much harder shell than a garden snail, though nowhere near hard enough to withstand being trodden on!



Any questions call 1300 361 967



Broken Bay, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

**Activities** Stroll around the village or join a tour of the courthouse (tour fee applies). Visit the heritage shop and information centre for full details on what's available.

**Access** 120 km west of Sydney, 12 km south of Lithgow on the Great Western Highway. Open every day between 10 am and 4.30 pm.

**Hartley, 6355 2117**

### Hartley Historic Site Shop

Farmers Inn, Great Western Highway, Hartley  
Ph: 6355 2117



Based in one of Hartley's historic buildings, the shop has books, oil lamps, candlesticks, souvenirs and pens, as well as sweets and drinks. Open 7 days, 10 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

### 18 Heathcote National Park 2250 ha



**Highlights** The wild, rugged landscape is perfect for walkers and easily accessible from Sydney. In spring Gymea lilies give a scarlet glow to the gullies.

**Activities** Take one of the series of walking tracks through the beautiful diversity of

the park's rocky bushland, stopping for a swim in a hidden pool along the Heathcote creek gorge. Backpack camping is permitted at limited sites (permits and bookings essential, phone for details).

**Access** 35 km south of Sydney. There's no car access but you can walk in from Heathcote or Waterfall on the Illawarra train line.

**Audley, 9542 0648**

### 19 Kanangra-Boyd National Park 68,661 ha



**Highlights** Vast gorges, high lookouts and wild and scenic rivers lend Kanangra-Boyd's wilderness a rugged and dramatic grandeur. Thurat Spires, Kanangra Walls and Mt Cloudmaker provide sandstone scenery on a majestic scale.

**Activities** For experienced bushwalkers there are plenty of opportunities for extended walks and backpack camping. Wildlife abounds at Boyd Crossing, where car-based camping is available (fees apply). A pleasant 10-minute walk from Kanangra Walls carpark takes you to a lookout over the park, the only wheelchair-accessible facility.

**Access** 180 km west of Sydney near Jenolan Caves on Kanangra Road (unsealed but suitable for 2WD). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

**Oberon, 6336 1972**  
**Blackheath, 4787 8877**

### 20 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park 14,894 ha



**Highlights** Ku-ring-gai Chase offers a rich variety of things to see and do in a natural setting adjacent to Sydney's northern suburbs. West Head, in the park's north-east, has some of Sydney's best water views, while Bobbin Head, on the western side, is well known for its waterways, picnic areas and walking tracks.

**Activities** Walking tracks reveal rugged scenery, quiet beaches and a wealth of wildflowers and birdlife. There are several picnic areas, some providing gas and electric barbecues, but no open fires are permitted within the park. Larger picnic shelters at Bobbin Head can be booked through the Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre. You can see Aboriginal rock art on The Basin track, Echidna track and Red Hand track. Chase Alive volunteers conduct guided walks (phone 9457 9853). Camping is only permitted at The Basin, camping fees apply and bookings are required (phone 9974 1011). Access is via water taxi or ferry from Palm Beach; landing fees apply. There are mannas at Bobbin Head and Akuna Bay, and boat ramps at Appletree Bay and Akuna Bay. Historic Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach offers stunning views of Broken Bay and the coast (access by uphill walking track; no toilets or drinking water at lighthouse site, for lighthouse tours phone 9247 5033).

**Access** 26 km north of Sydney CBD. Access to the western side is from Bobbin Head Road via the Pacific Highway (from the south), or from Ku-ring-gai Chase Road via the F3 Freeway (from the north). Access to the eastern side (West Head) is via Mona Vale Road. \$10 per day vehicle entry fee.

**Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre, 9472 8949**

### Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre

Ku-ring-gai Chase Road  
Bobbin Head Ph: 9472 8949

The centre in historic Bobbin Inn stocks books, maps, T-shirts, gifts, souvenirs, cards, posters and other products. Call or drop in for information on parks and reserves in northern Sydney. Open 7 days, 10 am to 4 pm (extended in peak times; closed Christmas Day).





Lane Cove River Lane Cove National Park

### Kalkari Visitor Centre

Ku-ring-gai Chase Road  
Ph: 9472 9300



Located between Mt Colah and Bobbin Head, Kalkari is staffed by Chase Alive volunteers, who run activities in the reserves of north-eastern Sydney. The centre has information on Discovery activities and walks in the surrounding reserves. It offers videos, a 3D slide show and displays on a variety of themes. There's a wheelchair accessible walking track where you can see kangaroos and emus. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day).

### 21 Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area 667 ha



**Highlights** Coastal and lake shore forest, spread over 16 km of foreshore in six sections around Lake Macquarie, forms an important habitat for kangaroos, wallabies, gliders and many birds.

**Activities** There are opportunities for picnicking, bushwalking, fishing and boating. Wangi Wangi Point has an established

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walking track network, a picnic area and fishing spots. Other bays, such as Awaba Bay (a newly constructed walking track along the foreshore has great water views, wildlife and flora) are great for birdwatching. Point Wolstonecraft (run by the Department of Sport and Recreation, phone 1800 819 244) has facilities and accommodation for a minimum of two nights. Car-based and caravan camping, onsite cabins and powered caravan sites are available at Wangi Point Tourist Park; fees apply and bookings are essential (phone 4975 1889).

**Access** 115 km north-east of Sydney, 50 km north-east of Gosford. Wangi Wangi Point is accessed via Dobell Drive. Awaba Bay is off The Ridgeway at Bolton Point, and Point Wolstonecraft is at the end of Kanangra Drive off the Pacific Highway.

Lake Munmorah, 4358 0400

### 22 Lane Cove National Park 601 ha



**Highlights** The picturesque Lane Cove River winds through a peaceful bushland valley within easy reach of the city centre, extending from East Ryde to Wahroonga/Pennant Hills.

**Activities** The river is the focus of most activities — visit the Kukundi Wildlife

Shelter, take a stroll along the bank, or hire a row boat. Swimming is not advisable. There are dozens of picnic spots (bookings required for large groups, phone 9888 9160). You can stay overnight in cabins or powered/unpowered camping sites at the nearby caravan park (phone 9888 9133).

**Access** 10 km north-west of Sydney CBD. Enter from Delhi Road, Lane Cove Road or Lady Game Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee. Bus services 550 and 551 operate regularly from Chatswood Station.

Lane Cove, 9412 1811

### 23 Leacock Regional Park 34 ha



**Highlights** Leacock regional park provides a welcome area of open space in Sydney's south west. From the ridge line there are views over the Holsworthy bushland and Sydney's skyline.

**Activities** Walking trails along the banks of the Georges River link the park with other facilities such as Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. There's a lookout platform, barbecues and picnic facilities. As it's a regional park, not a national park, you can walk your dog on a leash.

**Access** 35 km west of Sydney CBD, 5 km south of Liverpool via Leacock Lane off the Hume Highway at Casula.

Parramatta, 9895 7420

### 24 Marramarra National Park 11,759 ha



**Highlights** A peaceful stretch of bushland overlooks the Hawkesbury River and Berowra Creek. There are excellent examples of mangrove forest at Big Bay, Pumpkin Point and Gentlemans Halt.

**Activities** Follow one of the many walking tracks, or go canoeing on Marramarra Creek or one of the little-known waterways and take a close look at local wildlife. There's bush camping at Gentlemans Halt (access only via water or 10 km walk) and Marramarra Creek orchards (via water or 4 km walk).

**Access** 50 km north of Sydney. Enter via Bloodwood Road, Arcadia Road or Old Northern Road.

**Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre, 9472 8949**

Any questions call 1 300 361 967







Audley Visitor Centre, Royal National Park

## 28 Popran National Park

3970 ha



**Highlights** Aboriginal sites are dotted throughout the spectacular sandstone cliff lines and gullies. The views from Mt Olive and the 248 track (accessible from Wisemans Ferry Road) are wonderful. Emerald Pool is just one of the pristine small creek catchments within the park.

**Activities** You can go bushwalking or mountain bike riding, or wander through the exceptional wildflower displays. Camping is not permitted in the park.

**Access** 65 km north of Sydney, 25 km west of Gosford north of the Hawkesbury River. Easy access from the F3 Sydney–Newcastle Freeway exiting at Mt White or Calga.

Gosford, 4320 4280

## 29 Rouse Hill Regional Park 43 ha



**Highlights** In recent years the landscape surrounding historic Rouse Hill House, built between 1813 and 1818, has been gradually transformed from paddock to parkland, designed around existing features such as Second Ponds Creek, farm dams and remnant woodland.

Sydney & Surrounds

**Activities** Cycling, walking and inline skating tracks explore the park, and there's adventure play equipment for toddlers and teenagers. Have a picnic or barbecue, or the two Iron Bark Ridge Pavilions can be hired for functions. You can walk your dog on a leash.

**Access** 45 km north-west of Sydney CBD, 10 km north of Blacktown on Worcester Road off Windsor Road.

Windsor, 4572 3100

## 30 Royal National Park

15,080 ha



**Highlights** This historic national park was the first in Australia (and second in the world, after Yellowstone in the USA) and is easily accessible from Sydney. Walk the coast for magnificent views or explore a variety of habitats, including heath, rainforest, open wetlands and estuaries.

**Activities** Over 100 km of walking tracks give access to the park. The 26 km Coast Track has magnificent clifftop views, or take the Forest Island loop walk through cool, rainforested valleys. Wattamolla, Garie and Burning Palms are among the most beautiful beaches in Australia. Enjoy a picnic in one of many peaceful, shady areas or hire a rowboat at historic Audley and take a paddle up Kangaroo Creek.

There are kiosks at Garie, Wattamolla and Audley. The kiosk and picnic pavilion at Audley and the visitor centre are wheelchair accessible, as are the toilets nearby. The Bungoona Track close to the visitor centre is a 500-metre concrete path with a wheelchair-accessible lookout. Discovery walks, talks and tours are available year round. Join an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger for an educational insight into the land — phone 9542 0649 for Discovery information and bookings.

Car-based and caravan camping (no power) with basic facilities is available at Bonnie Vale (fees apply, bookings essential). Backpack camping is permitted at limited sites (fees apply, permits and bookings essential). Children under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. Phone the Visitor Centre at Audley for all bookings and permits.

**Access** 32 km south of Sydney via Princes Highway. \$10 per day vehicle entry fee. Take the Illawarra train line, stopping at Loftus, Engadine, Heathcote, Waterfall or Orford. Access the north-eastern area of the park via the Cronulla line to Cronulla and then ferry to Bundeena (phone 9523 2990 for timetable).

Audley, 9542 0648

## Royal National Park Visitor Centre

Audley  
Ph: 9542 0648



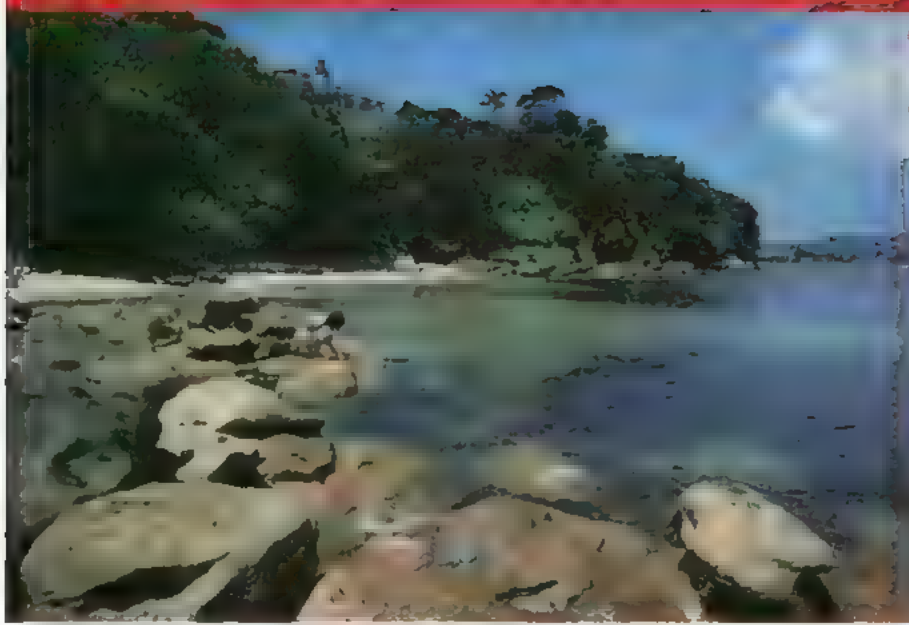
Call in for maps, brochures and information about the special things to see and do in Australia's first national park. Information on Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area is also available. The shop has an excellent range of books, gifts and souvenirs. Camping bookings are made and permits issued here. Open 8.30 to 4.30 seven days a week (closed Christmas Day).

## 31 Scheyville National Park 920 ha



**Highlights** Evidence of the area's rich history of European occupation can still be seen in the relics of agriculture, military training and immigration. The surrounding Cumberland Plain woodland ecosystems once covered much of what is now western Sydney, but are now threatened, mainly by urban expansion.

Any questions call 1300 361 967



Heritage Foreshore, Sydney Harbour National Park

**Activities** Walk the history trail and imagine what life was like in the years of the Casual Labour Farm, Agricultural Training Farm, migrant hostel or during military occupation. The walking track right around Longneck Lagoon provides excellent birdwatching opportunities. Picnic facilities and information are available at the Scheyville office. Phone 9247 5033 for a program of walks and tours in the area. Camping is not permitted in the park but you can camp in nearby Carrai National Park.

**Access** 45 km north-west of Sydney, 6 km east of Windsor on Windsor Road via Boundary Road and Old Pitt Town Road (from Parramatta), or on Pitt Town Road and Saunders Road (from Windsor).

Windsor, 4572 3100

## 32 Sydney Harbour National Park 393 ha



**Highlights** Sections of park scattered around Sydney Harbour offer views of the majestic harbour entrance, natural bushland, secluded sandy beaches, harbour islands and rugged sandstone cliffs — all with the contrast of cosmopolitan Sydney in the background.

**Activities** Swim and picnic at Nielsen Park (shark netted during summer) and walk the Hermitage Foreshore Track, or visit South Head for astonishing views. Take a tour of the harbour islands, such as historic Fort Denison and Goat Island, or visit the

**Quarantine Station** (bookings essential). You can also enjoy a picnic on Shark, Clark and Rodd islands (landing fees apply). All island visits and all tours must be booked and paid for in advance.

**Access** The park is in several sections surrounding Sydney Harbour, most of which are accessible by car and public transport. For bookings, directions and further details phone or visit the Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre. \$3 vehicle entry fee at North Head and Bradleys Head only.

Information Centre, 9247 5033

### Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre

Cadmans Cottage  
110 George Street  
The Rocks, Sydney  
Ph: 9247 5033



The Cadmans Cottage centre (see page 33) provides information and bookings on tours and access to Sydney Harbour islands and foreshores, including Goat Island, Fort Denison, the Quarantine Station, Middle Head and Bradleys Head, as well as Bare Island Fort and Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre in the northern section of Botany Bay National Park. The centre also provides information on facilities available in the parks and reserves to the west of the city centre. Open 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30 am to 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday. Closed Christmas day and Good Friday.





### 33 Thirlmere Lakes National Park 630 ha



**Highlights** Part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the five reed-fringed freshwater lakes, abundant with waterbirds and surrounded by quiet patches of forest, are among the last undisturbed lake systems near Sydney and have enormous scientific value

**Activities** Only low-impact activities, such as walking, swimming, canoeing and picnicking, are encouraged. Camping is not permitted anywhere in the park and powerboats are prohibited on the lakes

**Access** 95 km south-west of Sydney, 35 km south-west of Camden off Remembrance Drive (unsealed). Open only during daylight hours. \$6 vehicle entry fee

Picton, 4677 0859

### 34 Wallumatta Nature Reserve 6 ha



**Highlights:** One of the last remaining turpentine-ironbark forests on Wianamatta shale soil in Sydney — only about 1% of the original forests remain in the metropolitan area.

**Activities:** A loop walk explores the transition zone between the wetter shale forests of Sydney's north shore and the drier shale woodlands west of Parramatta. Stop and enjoy the tranquility of this important bushland remnant and take time to appreciate some of the 35 species of birds that have been recorded in the reserve.

**Access:** Corner of Twin Road and Cressy Road in the Sydney suburb of Ryde, 10 km north-west of the CBD. Access to the loop track is off Cressy Road.

Lane Cove, 9412 1811.

### 35 Western Sydney Regional Park 582 ha



**Highlights** Horsley Park, including the Olympic Equestrian Centre — still in use after the Olympics — and Fairfield City Farm, provides open space and recreation opportunities in an urban setting.

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Colo River Wollemi National Park

**Activities** There are children's playgrounds, foot and cycle paths, extended tracks for long-distance walkers and horseriding trails. Sugarloaf Ridge picnic area has many facilities and features views of the Sydney skyline and the Blue Mountains. Pimelea picnic area has facilities and walking tracks. As this is a regional park, not a national park, you can walk your dog on a leash.

**Access** 30 km west of Sydney, 10 km north-west of Liverpool. Sugarloaf Ridge can be reached from Saxony Road; Pimelea can be reached from the corner of Horsley Drive and Cowpasture Road. Horsley Park Internal roads and walking tracks make the whole park easily accessible

Parramatta, 9895 7420

### 36 Wollemi National Park 492,976 ha



**Highlights** The largest wilderness area in NSW and part of the recently declared Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area — a maze of canyons, cliffs and undisturbed forest.

**Activities** Descend to the Colo River on Bob Turners Track (4 km, 200 metres descent, some steep sections) and enjoy the beaches in one of the state's longest and most scenic gorges. There are historic ruins at Newnes, across the Wolgan River from the camping

area. The Glow Worm Tunnel is part of the old railway that serviced the area; access from Clarence on the Bells Line of Road. Dunns Swamp has easy walks and plenty of opportunities for canoeing. Car-based and small-caravan camping is available at Dunns Swamp (contact Mudgee office) and Newnes (contact Blackheath) on the western side of the park, and Wheeney Creek (short walk from carpark; contact Richmond) on the eastern side. Backpack camping is permitted throughout the park. Bookings and permits for camping are not required.

**Access** 100–250 km north-west of Sydney. Dunns Swamp is 20 km from Rylstone along Narrango Road, Newnes is 47 km north of Lithgow along Wolgan Road; and Bob Turners Track starts off Putty Road 15 km north-west of Colo. All roads are unsealed

North-east: Bulga, 6574 5275

South-east: Richmond, 4588 5247

South-west: Blackheath, 4787 8877

West: Mudgee, 6372 7199

### 37 Wyrabalong National Park 621 ha



**Highlights** The park's two scenic and forest-clad sections of coastline are separated by The Entrance. The southern part has high headlands, cliffs and rock platforms. The north is sandy and protects red gum forest and coastal rainforest.

Any questions call 1 300 361 967

**Activities** Swim at Tuggerah Beach (north) or Bateau Bay (south). There's good birdwatching by the lake, great surfing on the coast and several walking tracks. Camping isn't permitted, but you can camp in nearby Munmorah State Conservation Area.

**Access** 105 km north-east of Sydney. The two sections of the park are 5 km north and south of The Entrance off Wilfred Barrett Drive (north) and The Entrance Road (south).

**Lake Munmorah, 4358 0400**

## 38 Yengo National Park

152,262 ha



**Highlights** A wild area of steep gorges and rocky ridges, part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area. Mt Yengo is of cultural significance to local Aboriginal communities, and historic convict transport routes run through the area.

**Activities** Take a guided or self-guided walk along the Old Great North Road from Wisemans Ferry in the park's south-east. Or try turning your 4WD off Putty Road near Howes Valley to travel the Old Settlers Road to Paynes Crossing, or explore the Yengo track and Boree track from Laguna. There are great views at Finchley Lookout. Discovery walks, talks and tours are available throughout the year. Picnicking and car-based camping are available at Finchley (pit toilets, dam water) and Mogo Creek (pit toilets, tank water, camping fees apply). There are many opportunities for backpack camping throughout the park.



Looking north-east from Mogo Creek, Yengo National Park

**Access** 80–180 km north-west of Sydney. Finchley camping area is 12 km west of Laguna along the Finchley Track (unsealed). Mogo Creek camping area is 25 km north-west of St Albans on the St Albans–Bucketty road (unsealed).

**North: Bulga, 6574 5275**

**East: Gosford, 4320 4280**

**South-west: Blackheath, 4787 8877, or Richmond, 4588 5247**

### Wollemi pine

Only discovered in 1994, this remarkable 'living fossil' has survived since the age of the dinosaurs. A small grove of the 35-metre-high trees was found by an NPWS ranger in a sheltered rainforest gully in Wollemi National Park north-west of Sydney. Both female (top) and male cones are shown here.





# South Coast & Highlands

Cutting in above Wollongong, the cool plateaus and great sandstone cliffs of the escarpment stretch south through the Illawarra toward the distant mountains. Wilderness areas survive among its rugged heights, plunging waterfalls carve narrow valleys into its face, while the coast below is a string of secluded beaches, estuaries and twisting lakes. Further south and west the uplands climb to the great Kosciuszko, promising winter snow fields and alpine walks in summer. On the south-west slopes, newly protected areas offer breathtaking views out over the Murray River and beyond. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/south](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/south)



## 1 Barren Grounds Nature Reserve 2024 ha



**Highlights** The heathland plateau is a mass of wildflowers in spring and is perfect for birdwatching. A range of walks offer magnificent views of the Illawarra coastline and surrounding countryside.

**Activities** There are several walking tracks from 1.5 km up to 9 km. The field studies centre and bird observatory, run by Birds Australia, offers natural history courses.

**Access** 110 km south-west of Sydney, 20 km west of Kiama, and 12 km east of Robertson off the Jamberoo Mountain Road.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

South Coast & Highlands

## 2 Ben Boyd National Park 10,260 ha



**Highlights** Rocky stretches of coastline with vivid rock formations, heaths and banksia forest flank Twofold Bay. Don't miss Boyds Tower, built for whale-spotting by Ben Boyd. Green Cape Lightstation and the Pinnacles — white sand cliffs topped by red gravel — are well worth a look, and unique four star accommodation is available in the Assistant Lighthouse Keepers' cottages.

**Activities** The 1 km walk to Boyds Tower is wheelchair-accessible. Day tours and accommodation are available at the lighthouse year round (phone Merimbula for bookings and information). A new 30 km

track, the Light to Light Walk, links Boyds Tower and the lightstation — a brochure is available from the NPWS Office in Merimbula. There's car-based camping (not for caravans) at Saltwater Creek or Bittangabee Bay, fees apply and bookings are essential for Christmas and Easter holidays (write to PO Box 656, Merimbula 2548, or fax 6495 5055).

**Access** In two sections to the north and south of Eden. North section is 8 km north of Eden off Princes Highway. South section is 33 km south of Eden on Green Cape Road (unsealed) off Edrom Road. Green Cape accommodation is designed for wheelchair access. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

## 3 Biamanga National Park 13,749 ha



**Highlights** Mumbulla Mountain, at the upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee River, is sacred to the Yum people and a number of sites throughout the park have spiritual significance to local Aboriginal groups. The park also conserves an important area of substantially unmodified coastal foothill environments.

**Activities** Mumbulla Creek Falls has picnic facilities, barbecues, a boardwalk and an information display.

**Access** 20 km north of Bega off the Princes Highway. Unsealed roads.

Narooma, 4476 2888

### Kurrajong

The seed pods of the kurrajong, or flame tree, are a good source of fat and protein and can be roasted or used to make flour. But beware, the pods are lined with sharp hairs that can irritate your skin or even cause blindness if you accidentally rub one in your eye. Traditionally, fire was used to burn away the hairs and cook the seeds — which also helped to counteract the slightly toxic substance found in the seeds' yellow coating.



Any questions call 1300 361 967

## 4 Bimberamala National Park 4396 ha

**Highlights** Much of the catchment area of the pristine Bimberamala River has recently been listed as a National Park, and its untouched state makes it perfect for independent bushwalkers.

**Activities** Walkers and anglers will find exploring the park's forests and waterways a rewarding experience. Opportunities for backpack camping are limited due to the rugged terrain.

**Access** 30 km west of Batemans Bay and 15 km north of Kings Highway.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## Booderee National Park

Booderee, which includes well-known spots such as Green Patch and Caves Beach, is jointly managed by Wreck Bay Aboriginal community and Environment Australia, not the NPWS. There's a \$10 vehicle entry fee (or \$30 annual fee), even if you have an NPWS annual pass. For details of the park contact the visitor centre on 4443 0977. The park lies next to NSW Jervis Bay National Park (see page 47), which is managed by the NPWS.

## 5 Bournda National Park 2563 ha



**Highlights** A place of great beauty and conservation significance, with saltwater and freshwater lakes, a lagoon, a creek and beaches.

**Activities** There are many opportunities for swimming, fishing, cycling, walking. There's a viewing platform at North Head and good picnicking. A newly completed viewing platform and beach access at Furingal Head, north of Wallagoot Lake, is worth a visit to view the dramatic rock formations around the river mouth. Car-based and caravan camping (not powered) is allowed at Hobart Beach. Fees apply and bookings are essential for holiday periods (write to PO Box 626 Merimbula 2540, or fax 6495 5055).

**Access** 20 km south-east of Bega on Sapphire Coast Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

## 6 Brindabella National Park 18,472 ha

**Highlights** Stringybark, scribbly gum, box and peppermint forest, and subalpine snow gum and mountain gum forests protect threatened species such as the powerful owl and eastern bluebird in the most northern of the Australian Alps national parks.

**Activities** Bushwalking and birdwatching are popular; responsive 4WD and motorcycle tracks crisscross the system of trails.

**Access** 30 km west of Canberra off Brindabella Road (4WD only).

Queanbeyan, 6299 2929

## 7 Budawang National Park 23,787 ha

**Highlights** A rugged and remote wilderness area suitable for hardy bushwalkers. The view from the summit of Mt Budawang is superb, but is accessible only by a lengthy walk.

**Activities** There are opportunities for remote bushwalking and backpack camping. Walkers will need to be equipped for difficult and isolated conditions and carry sufficient water and survival gear. Most of the park is a declared wilderness area so no vehicles or horses are permitted and camping is only permitted on the Bournda and Dugong trails.

**Access** 50 km west of Ulladulla. There's no vehicle access but walking access is possible from the Western Distributor road off Yabboro Road (both unsealed) or Kings Highway.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270



## 8 Mainland Lighthouses

The NPWS manages 11 lighthouses dotted along the coastline, romantic icons from a more isolated time. The lighthouses were built from the 1820s to the 1920s, and were intended to function together as a chain of coastal highway lights. The lighthouses are often surrounded by spectacular national parks, headlands, bays and reefs.

Siting in lonely, isolated locations, the lighthouses are often surrounded by spectacular national parks. Smoky Cape Lighthouse overlooks Hart Head National Park, for example, and Montague Island Lighthouse stands in the middle of the island's nature reserve.

Near Sydney, there are lighthouses at Cape Baily, in Botany Bay National Park; on Inner South Head, in Sydney Harbour National Park; and on Barmah Head, in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

Most of the lighthouses are still operating, many offer tours and some, such as Green Cape Lighthouse in Ben Boyd National Park, offer accommodation. For more details contact the National Parks Centre on 1 300 361 967 or visit the website at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).





Moss Vale in Brindabella National Park

## 8 Budderoo National Park 7120 ha



**Highlights** Excellent plateau walking tracks with fabulous views across sandstone country, heathlands and towards the Illawarra coast and Minnamurra Rainforest.

**Activities** Walking tracks, including one that's wheelchair accessible, have been constructed to three lookout platforms that provide superb views of Carrington Falls in the plateau section of the park. The popular Minnamurra Rainforest Centre lies below the sandstone plateau. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk leads from the rainforest centre through subtropical and temperate rainforest areas and a separate paved walk leading to Minnamurra Falls. Backpack camping more than 1 km from roads is permitted on the Budderoo Plateau. There is a small camping ground at Carrington Falls.

**Access** 120 km south-west of Sydney. Entry to the park is off Jamberoo Pass Road. For Carrington Falls, turn off Jamberoo Pass Road up from Minnamurra Rainforest, 8 km east of Robertson. The Minnamurra Rainforest Centre is 15 km west of Kiama on Tourist Drive 9 - drive through the historic village of Jamberoo and follow the rainforest signs. Minnamurra Rainforest can also be accessed via Robertson and Carrington Falls. \$10 per day vehicle entry fee at Minnamurra only.

Minnamurra, 4236 0469  
Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

South Coast & Highlands

## Minnamurra Rainforest Centre

Budderoo National Park  
Minnamurra Falls Road, Jamberoo  
Ph: 4236 0469



15 km west of Kiama on Tourist Drive 9, the Rainforest Centre provides an elevated boardwalk through the rainforest and a paved track to the Upper Falls - keep an eye out for superb lyrebirds in the undergrowth. The Visitor Centre provides information about the area and surrounding national parks, and a shop. The Lyrebird Cafe offers light meals and refreshments, and there are picnic and barbecue facilities available. Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day). \$10 vehicle entry fee. The visitor centre, cafe and commencement of the rainforest walk (approx 1 hour) close at 4 pm - you'll need to start the Upper Falls walk (approx 2 hours) before 3 pm.

## 9 Bungonia State Conservation Area 3977 ha



**Highlights** The network of tracks and lookouts offer fabulous river and canyon views and access to one of Australia's prime caving spots.

**Activities** There are plenty of opportunities for various types of adventure recreation, such as canoeing, canyoning and caving (BASE jumping prohibited). There's a well-equipped car-based camping area, including a camp kitchen (fees apply, bookings required).

**Access** 175 km south-west of Sydney, 35 km east of Goulburn and 25 km south of Marulan via Bungonia along Lookdown Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Info line, 4844 4341  
Bungonia, 4844 4277

## 10 Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve 47 ha



**Highlights** The wetlands support over 80 species of waterfowl, and sometimes in the late evening or early morning you may see a platypus.

**Activities** The 1 km walk on the edge of the wetland has seats for watching the birds or sitting and experiencing the peace and tranquility. The picnic area has tables and barbecues. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 115 km south-west of Sydney, 2 km north of Moss Vale on the Bowral-Moss Vale road.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

## 11 Clyde River National Park 1278 ha



**Highlights** Approximately 9 km of river frontage on the peaceful Clyde River supports a range of habitats, including mangrove communities.

**Activities** Holmes Lookout offers glimpses of the river and Batemans Bay. The Clyde River provides great fishing opportunities and car-based (4WD) and boat-based camping (no facilities).

**Access** 4 km west of Batemans Bay just south of Nelligen; enter via unsealed roads off Kings Highway or by boat up the Clyde River.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 12 Comerong Island Nature Reserve 660 ha



**Highlights** The reserve protects the largest remaining coastal rainforest on the south coast, outstanding wetlands and is home to a variety of protected wading birds.

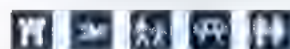
Any questions call 1300 361 967

**Activities** Excellent for recreational fishing, swimming, surfing and birdwatching. There's a small grassed picnic area near the entrance to the reserve. Camping is not permitted

**Access** 165 km south of Sydney, 10 km east of Nowra via car ferry off Comerong Island Road. Unsealed roads; 2WD in dry weather only

**Nowra, 4423 2170**

### 13 **Conjola & Cudmirrah National Parks** 11,063 ha



**Highlights** These adjacent coastal parks feature extensive forests beside beautiful lakes and estuaries and large areas of woodland and heath that become a mass of wildflowers in spring.

**Activities** Monument Beach and Fishermans Rock have picnic areas and walking tracks. Camping is not permitted but there's a range of camping and accommodation in the surrounding villages and towns

**Access** Enter via Goonawarra Drive from Cudmirrah, Cedar Road on the Bendalong Road, or Fishermans Rock from Berrara, all unsealed roads

**Nowra, 4423 2170**

### 14 **Cullendulla Creek Nature Reserve** 126 ha



**Highlights** Explore mangroves and the lower reaches of Cullendulla Creek with views across Batemans Bay and Tolgare Islands. Signs offering insight into the local area have been installed along the raised Mangrove Walk

**Activities** Enjoy walking, swimming, fishing and birdwatching along the creek, or take the wheelchair accessible boardwalk from the carpark down to Cullendulla Beach

**Access** Situated in the northern shoreline of Batemans Bay, enter off Surfside Road

**Nowra, 4423 2170**

### 15 **Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site**

27 ha



**Highlights** In these days of whale watching, the longest-running shore-based whaling station in Australia, operating from the 1860s to the 1920s, is a reminder of a very different era

**Activities** A signposted walk to the Kiah Inlet highlights the ruins of the whale processing area, and passes a charming rustic cottage in a historic garden setting. Wheelchair access is to the cottage only (call Merimbula to gain vehicle access and avoid the steep path)

**Access** 35 km south-east of Eden along Edrom Road (last 4 km unsealed)

**Merimbula, 6495 5000**

### 16 **Deua National Park**

117,557 ha



**Highlights** A rugged, scenic area of mountain ranges, bisected plateaus and both wild and gentle rivers, much of which is listed as wilderness. Deua's rivers are popular for canoeing trips and its limestone belt attracts caving enthusiasts

**Activities** Experienced paddlers can enjoy the upper Shoalhaven River and cavers can explore the limestone caves (caving permits apply to some sites). See the magnificent Big Hole (96 metres deep) while camping at Berlang, or follow the Araluen Road and camp at Deua River, Bakers Flat or Dry Creek (car-based and caravan camping; minimal facilities; fees apply). A secluded camp area is also available at Bendethera (4WD only)

**Access** 100 km south-east of Canberra. Deua River and Bakers Flat camping areas are both on Araluen Road (unsealed but 2WD). Dry Creek camping area is nearby on Dry Creek Fire Trail (4WD access only). Berlang







Meeting the past at the present in the Eurobodalla National Park

camping area is on Krawarree Road between Nimmutabel and Broadwood. Bendetheria camping area is accessible via Dampier Mountain Fire Trail (4WD only) off Snowball Road, or Bendetheria Fire Trail (4WD only) via Western Boundary Road and Sugarloaf Road off the Princes Highway.

Narooma, 4476 2888

### Discovery Centre, Merimbula

Cnr Sapphire Coast Drive &  
Merimbula Drive, Merimbula  
Ph: 6495 5000



This wheelchair-accessible centre provides visitors with information on walking tracks, camping areas and unique flora and fauna of the south east forests from the Victorian border through to Batemans Bay. The Australian Geographic Adventure Station features an interactive CD-ROM and displays. Open 9.00 am to 4.00 pm weekdays and some weekends during peak holiday periods.

### 17 Eurobodalla National Park 2627 ha



**Highlights** Ocean beaches, spotted gum forests, wetlands and estuaries offer a variety of scenery and an important habitat area for waterbirds and threatened native animals.

South Coast & Highlands

such as the white-tufted jannart. The Eurobodalla area also has significant Aboriginal and European cultural sites.

**Activities** Enjoy camping, bushwalking, fishing, swimming, birdwatching, boating and other water activities. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Conga camping area (fees apply) and there are plenty of picnic spots.

**Access** Stretched along the coast from Meruya Head at the north to Tilba Lake in the south. Various access points off the Princes Highway.

Narooma, 4476 2888

### 18 Gulaga National Park 4673 ha



**Highlights** Gulaga (Mt. Dromedary) and the surrounding landscape have great spiritual significance to local Aboriginal people, particularly Anaiwan women. The park also incorporates the former Wollaga Lake National Park and is scheduled to be handed back to the Aboriginal owners for joint management as a cultural park.

**Activities** Walk up the old Dromedary Road to the peak and enjoy views out over the coastal lakes. Tours of the park's cultural sites are available through Unbarra Aboriginal Cultural Tours at Wollaga Lake (phone 4476 3231).

**Access** 10 km north of Bermagui along the Wollaga Lake Road. You can enter the park on foot from the Princes Highway but the lake areas are best accessed by boat. Hire boats from Regatta Point or Beauty Point.

Narooma, 4476 2888

### 19 Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area

1504 ha



**Highlights** A large park along the Illawarra escarpment, off Mt. Keira and Mt. Kembla, offering panoramic views and short drives to Wollongong.

**Activities** Hike through a variety of forests, including the forest caterpillar which feeds on wattle. Look for a variety of native birds and mammals. All bookings essential. Phone 9542 26490. Many of the lookouts have wheelchair access.

**Access** 65 km south of Sydney via the Princes Highway off Princes at Bulli, Mt. Ousley Road to Mt. Keira Road, or Harry Graham Drive and Cordeaux Road to Mt. Kembla.

Wollongong, 4225 1455

### 20 Jervis Bay Marine Park

21,450 ha



**Highlights** The bay offers beaches, rocky platforms and reefs, extensive seagrass beds, estuaries, deep water cliffs with caves and gorges, and a regular salt in the crystal clear waters.

**Activities** Scuba diving, swimming, surfing, boating and fishing are all popular. Picnic facilities and walking tracks are available in the surrounding NSW Jervis Bay National Park (see page 47).

**Access** 170 km south of Sydney, 25 km south-east of Narooma. Many access points off the Princes Highway.

Huskisson, 4441 7752

### Fur seal

Male fur seals grow up to around 2.25 m long and can weigh as much as 360 kg — three or four times heavier than the females. The strongest males mark out breeding territory on barren islands and rocky platforms from Tasmania to southern NSW, using bellows, dramatic postures and occasionally their might to keep weaker rivals at bay. Though often tightly packed together, females and pups live a quieter life — they don't 'belong' to any particular male and are free to wander in and out of

they please



Any questions call 1300 361 967



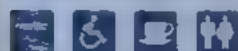


## Kosciuszko Visitor Centres

The four visitor centres in the Kosciuszko region provide local information, day and annual passes, NPWS products, books, maps, souvenirs, giftware and clothing.

### Snowy Region Visitor Centre

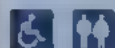
Kosciuszko Road, Jindabyne  
Ph: 6450 5600  
Email: [srvs@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srvs@npws.nsw.gov.au)



Facilities include Wilfreds Cafe, the National Parks shop and a cinema where you can watch a free screening of the 15 minute film *Kosciuszko reflections*. Extensive displays and touchscreens provide information on the area. Wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days a week, 8 am to 5.30 pm in winter and 8.30 am to 5 pm in summer (closed Christmas Day).

### Khancoban Information Centre

Scott Street, Khancoban  
Ph: 6076 9373



The south-west gateway to Kosciuszko, based in the town of Khancoban (turn off the Alpine Way at the service station). There are free displays and audio-visual presentations and wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days a week, 8.30 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm. Extended hours in peak times of the year (closed Christmas Day).

### Yarrangobilly Caves Visitor Centre

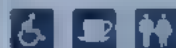
Snowy Mountains Highway  
Yarrangobilly Caves  
Ph: 6454 9597



At the north end of the park, providing tickets for guided and self-guided cave tours and access to a natural thermal bathing pool, barbecue facilities, picnic areas and a number of short walks. \$3 vehicle entry fee. Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm. Extended hours at peak times of the year (closed Christmas Day).

### Turnut Region Visitor Centre

The Old Butter Factory  
5 Adelong Road, Tumut  
Ph 6947 7025



In the Old Butter Factory at the major intersection of the Snowy Mountains Highway and the Gundagai Road at the northern tip of the park. Wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day).

### 23 Macquarie Pass National Park 1064 ha



**Highlights** Some of Australia's most southern subtropical rainforests grow on the rugged sandstone escarpment

**Activities** A pleasant 2 km rainforest walk to the Cascades Waterfall, with signs along the way providing information about the park, starts from the carpark at the foot of the pass on the northern side of the Illawarra Highway. Backpack camping is permitted more than 1 km from any public-access road

**Access** 115 km south-east of Sydney, 9 km west of Albion Park, and 7 km east of Robertson on the Illawarra Highway

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

### 24 Merero National Park 3641 ha



**Highlights** A wide variety of forest types, including spotted gum, adjoin the largely natural Tabourine, Bunill, Termeil and Merero coastal lakes

**Activities** You can enjoy bushwalking, fishing, swimming and canoeing. Camping is permitted at Merero Head in the southern section of the park, though no facilities are provided.

**Access** 5 km south of Ulladulla, enter via unsealed roads off the Princes Highway.

Nowra, 4423 2170

Each year, bogong moths leave their birthplaces in southern Queensland and NSW on a migration to the peaks of the Australian Alps. They gather in mountain caves and crevices to aestivate (the summer form of hibernation) in huge numbers. Reaching densities of up to 14,000 moths per square metre, they make a traditional summer feast for local Aboriginal people.

### 25 Mimosa Rocks National Park 5802 ha



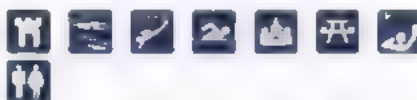
**Highlights** Natural volcanic sculptures appear everywhere among the rugged coastal headlands, cliffs and rock stacks

**Activities** The coastal areas are popular for surfing, fishing, snorkelling, birdwatching and taking in the sights. Car-based camping is available at Aragunnu, Picnic Point and Gillards Beach, and backpack camping at Middle Beach (fees apply, payable on site). There's caravan camping at Gillards Beach; other areas are not recommended for caravans. Picnic facilities are available at Aragunnu, Picnic Beach, Bithry Inlet and Middle Beach

**Access** 22 km north-east of Bega off the Tathra-Bermagui road. The roads are unsealed but are suitable for 2WD in all weather

Narooma, 4476 2888

### 26 Montague Island Nature Reserve 81 ha



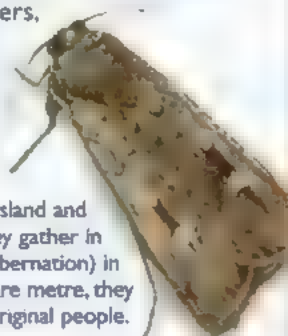
**Highlights** From the end of winter to early December hundreds of albatrosses make their home on the island. It's also a breeding ground for 15 bird species — including about 8000 pairs of penguins. You can tour the lighthouse and a collection of historic buildings

**Activities** To visit, join a day or evening adventure tour with an NPWS guide from Narooma (tour fees apply)

**Access** 9 km offshore from Narooma. Contact the numbers below for details.

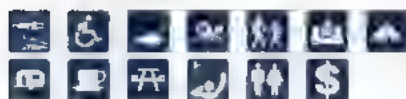
**Tour information and bookings:**  
NPWS Narooma, 4476 2888  
Narooma Visitor Centre, 4476 2881  
Narooma Charters, 4476 2240

### Bogong moth



## Morton National Park

189,668 ha



**Highlights** Explore sandstone scenery on a grand scale throughout the park. To the south, George Boyd lookout, Little Forest Plateau and Pigeon House Mountain offer views of the coastline and the Budawang wilderness areas. The recently upgraded Tianjara lookout, on the Nowra–Brudwood road, provides views of Tianjara Falls. To the north, Fitzroy Falls and Belmore Falls plunge off the plateau into rainforest gullies. On the western side at Tallong there are wonderful views of the Shoalhaven Gorge from Badgerys and Longpoint lookouts.

**Activities** There are extensive opportunities for remote bushwalking from several locations, especially in the spectacular Red wings and easter walks at Fitzroy Falls, Belmore Falls, Little Forest and Bundanoon. You can drive to a range of breathtaking lookouts. Backpack camping more than 300 metres from roads is permitted throughout most of the park, and there's car-based camping at Cammell's Rest at Bundanoon (bookings essential and fees apply). There's some provision for caravan access (three sites only, no power). Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre is open 7 days a week.

**Access** Multiple entry points. 150–200 km south-west of Sydney. 17 km east of Moss Vale on Nowra Road. Bundanoon is 17 km south of Moss Vale. \$3 per day vehicle entry fee at Fitzroy Falls and \$6 per day at Bundanoon.

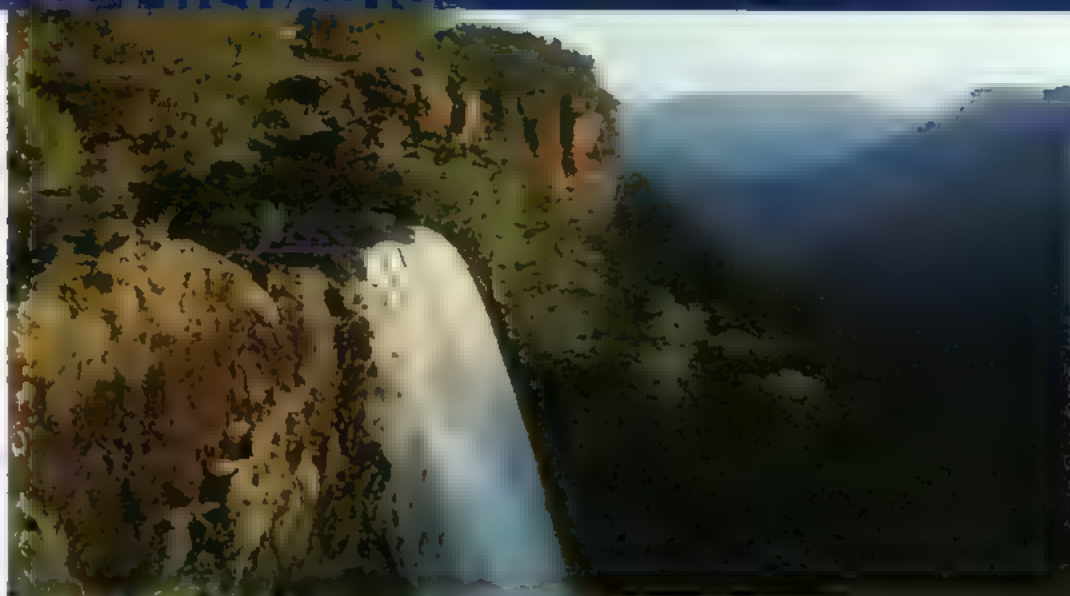
Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

### Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre

Morton National Park  
Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls  
Ph: 4887 7270



You can pick up information on all the national parks in southern NSW, Australian-made souvenirs, maps, postcards, books and local crafts. School Education programs, guided walks, videos and slide shows are conducted in the new resource room, and there are interactive displays for children. The Falls Cafe offers a range of home-cooked meals, drinks and snacks in a magnificent indoor/outdoor setting. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk to the falls and lookouts provides views of the waterfall and sandstone escarpment. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5.30 pm (closed Christmas Day). \$3 per day vehicle entry fee.



Fitzroy Falls, Morton National Park

## 28 Mount Imlay National Park 4822 ha



**Highlights** The top of Mt Imlay offers great views of the coast and forest, and the summit area supports a population of extremely rare *Eucalyptus imlayensis*. The mountain is named after the three Imlay brothers who played an important part in opening the Eden-Monaro district to European settlement in the 1830s and 40s.

**Activities** The 3 km track (approx 4 hours return) to the summit from the end of the Burrowing Forest Road is very steep and rough and should only be attempted in daylight with good weather conditions. There's a picnic area at the western end of Burrowing Forest Road, where the mountain-track starts.

**Access** 35 km south-west of Eden. Entry is from the Burrowing Forest Road off the Princes Highway 20 km south of Eden.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

## 29 Murramarang Aboriginal Area 60 ha



**Highlights** The headland complex of Aboriginal middens — mounds with shells and other cultural objects — is important to local Aboriginal communities, as well as being scientifically significant. The site, the largest on the south coast and one of only three older than 10,000 years, contains a dense concentration of stone artefacts, shells, and bones from birds, fish and animals. The variety of tool types, including rare bone tools, illustrates the long history of its occupation.

**Activities** There's a self-guided walking track, including panoramic views of the coastline, Brush Island, Durras Mountain and the hinterland ranges.

**Access** 40 km north of Batemans Bay. Enter via Murramarang Road off the Princes Highway at Termed. Walk 800 metres along the public right-of-way to Racecourse Beach.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 30 Murramarang National Park 11,977 ha



**Highlights** Beaches, rock platforms, spotted gum forests and rainforest gullies surround the beautiful Durras Lake.

**Activities** Explore Durras Lake and Durras Mountain on a range of walking tracks. Stay at Depot, Pebbly or Pretty beaches (caravans, cabins and camping sites available), bookings are essential and camping fees apply. Cabins at Depot Beach have been designed to accommodate wheelchairs.







Top: Hume Creek Nature Reserve

**Access** 10 km north of Batemans Bay along various access points off the Princes Highway. Mostly unsealed roads. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Nowra, 4423 2170

### 31 Nadgee Nature Reserve 20,671 ha



**Highlights** Colourful headland cliffs line the only coastal wilderness in NSW, protecting one of the largest undeveloped catchments on the eastern seaboard.

**Activities** Unique coastal walks take in sandy beaches, rocky headlands and lush coastal heath. You'll need a permit for overnight bushwalking (bookings are essential and fees apply; write to PO Box 606, Merimbula NSW 2548, or fax 6495 5055). Greenglade

and Baycliff, on the edge of the wilderness, offer excellent picnicking, swimming and beach fishing. Both areas are accessed via Wonboyn village.

**Access** 35 km south of Eden. Entry is via Wonboyn Road (unsealed) off the Princes Highway 20 km south of Eden.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

### Narooma Wildlife Shop



Princes Highway (next to the Ice Creamery) Narooma  
Ph: 4476 2888

The shop has information on southern NSW national parks, and you can book Montague Island tours. Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm, and some weekends over Christmas and Easter holidays (closed Christmas Day).

Map 6

### 32 Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserve 878 ha



**Highlights** Explore beautiful estuaries, coastal forests, quiet beaches and honey-combed rock platforms.

**Activities** The creek is a great place to observe birdlife, so take binoculars and a field guide. Conjola and Buckleys beaches and the Narrawallee Inlet provide excellent fishing, swimming and surfing. A network of walking tracks leads through forests and alongside mangroves. There's a picnic area near Conjola Beach.

**Access** 20 km north of Ulladulla along the Lake Conjola Road and Thorn Street.

Nowra, 4423 2170

### 33 Seven Mile Beach National Park 898 ha



**Highlights** The sweep of Seven Mile Beach is rimmed with sand dunes and low forest inhabited by birds, possums and small mammals.

**Activities** You can enjoy a range of aquatic activities, including fishing and windsurfing. Picnic and barbecue facilities are provided in a pleasant forest setting close to the beach.

**Access** 142 km south of Sydney, 6 km south of Gerringong along Gerroa Road, towards Nowra.

Nowra, 4423 2170



### 34 South East Forest National Park 115,372 ha



**Highlights** Outstanding old-growth forests, heathlands, upland swamps, spectacular granite boulders and moist fern-filled gullies dominate the scattered sections of the park.

**Activities** Scenic drives provide access to picnic areas at Six Mile Creek, White Rock River, Wolumla Peak, Myrtle Mountain, Big Jack and Myanba Creek. At Myanba Gorge, viewing platforms look out across the Towamba Valley. The magnificent Goodenia rainforest walk, off the Pimbula Wyndham road, has a carpark and barbecue area. Viewing platforms at Pipers Lookout offer dazzling views across the Bega Valley. There are various wheelchair accessible walks and boardwalks at Six Mile Creek, Myanba Gorge, Pipers Lookout and White Rock River. Car-based camping (not for caravans) is available at Six Mile Creek and Postmans Track.

**Access** 440–550 km south of Sydney. Six Mile Creek is 12 km west of Candelo on the Tantawangalo Mountain Road (unsealed). Access to Myanba Gorge is via Coolangubra Forest Way and Kanoonah Road (both unsealed) or along the Bucky Springs Road south-east from Bombala. Pipers Lookout is 60 km west of Bega along the Snowy Mountains Highway.

Bombala, 6458 4080  
Merimbula, 6495 5000  
Narooma, 4476 2888

### 35 Tallaganda National Park 16,727 ha

**Highlights** Two sections of the Great Dividing Range south-east of Canberra support a range of forest habitats, including stringybark, scribbly gum, brown barrel and peppermint forest, as well as subalpine snow gum and mountain gum forest. The area provides habitats for threatened species such as the spotted-tailed quoll, powerful owl and yellow-bellied glider.

**Activities** The park has no facilities but there are plenty of opportunities for bushwalking, orienteering, 4WD touring and birdwatching.

**Access** 50 km south-east of Canberra, off the Captains Flat–Bradwood and Hoskinstown–Bradwood roads (4WD only).

Queanbeyan, 6299 2929

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



The homestead at Throsby Park Historic Site

### 36 Throsby Park Historic Site 74 ha



**Highlights** The homestead's historic farm buildings, owned by the Throsby family for 150 years, are an interesting illustration of life as an early colonial landholder.

**Activities** Open only by arrangement (available for group bookings) and on periodic open days; fees apply for tours. School education programs are conducted on request.

**Access** 120 km south-west of Sydney, 1.5 km east of Moss Vale on the Illawarra Highway.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

### 37 Wadbilliga National Park 97,761 ha



**Highlights** An area of mountainous wilderness cradling one of the state's largest undisturbed river catchments.

**Activities** A 3 km walk (2 hours return) extends from Cascades carpark to Tuross

Falls. You can camp at Lake Creek or Cascades and picnic at Wadbilliga Crossing.

**Access** Entry to Lake Creek and Wadbilliga Crossing is from Cobargo via Yowrie Road and Bourkes Road. Entry to Cascades is from Cooman and Counteganey via Badja Forest Road and Tuross Falls Road.

Narooma, 4476 2888

### 38 Woomargama National Park 23,577 ha



**Highlights** A new park near the Murray River containing the largest remnant of box woodlands in the South West Slopes of NSW.

**Activities** Norths Lookout on the Tin Mine Trail provides extensive views over the Riverina. The Tin Mines picnic and camping area (suitable for backpack camping) is a stopping point on the Hume and Hovell Walking Track.

**Access** 25 km south-east of Holbrook, 40 km west of Tumbarumba. 4WD access (no 2WD) when dry, and no access at all when wet.

Tumut, 6947 7025

South Coast & Highlands



# Central NSW

The central NSW landscape ranges from wide, sandy river banks to open plains and sandstone cliffs. Islands of bush break up the expanses of farmland and forest rolls up to the basalt spurs of the Warrumbungles. Orchids, wattles and tough ironbarks are typical of the area, which also supports waterbirds, wallabies and even platypuses. The region is rich with Aboriginal and European heritage, from Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave to the gold-mining areas around Hill End and bushranger haunts in Weddin Mountains National Park. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/central](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/central)



## 1 Abercrombie River National Park 19,000 ha



**Highlights** Deep waterholes beneath

towering casuarinas are threaded along three waterways as they run through the largest remaining patch of low, open forest in the south-west central tablelands area.

**Activities** Fish for trout in the streams or enjoy swimming and canoeing in the waterholes. Car-based camping is available

at Silent Creek, The Sink (Retreat River), The Beach (Abercrombie River) and Bummeroo Ford. Backpack camping is permitted elsewhere in the park. A 4WD is needed for all parts of the park except Bummeroo Ford, and The Sink is accessible by 2WD when roads are dry.

**Access** 120 km west of Sydney, 40 km south of Oberon along Goulburn Road (unsealed).

Oberon, 6336 1972

## 2 Cocoparra National Park 8358 ha



**Highlights** Wattles, orchids and blue-tinged cypress pines contrast against rich red rocks in one of the Riverina's rare forest remnants. After the winter rains the rivers swell, waterfalls leap into life and the land is bright with wildflowers.

**Activities** Walking in the park you're likely to see plenty of animals, and the track from Jacks Creek picnic area passes an impressive gorge. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Woolshed Flat.

**Access** 25 km north-east of Griffith from Myall Park Road, signposted at Yenda Roads are unsealed and may be difficult in wet weather.

Griffith, 6966 8100

## 3 Conimbla National Park 7590 ha



**Highlights** Yambira mountain and its surrounding forested ranges rise nearly 500 metres above the plain, forming a 'bush island' amid the central west farm lands. Rock ledges and waterfalls have formed along some of the creek-lines, and wildflowers brighten the landscape in spring.

**Activities** Enjoy magnificent views from Ironbark walking track, or go birdwatching along the Wallaby track. Backpack camping is available.

**Access** 9 km west of Cowra off the Mid-western Highway.

Forbes, 6851 4429



Rain in the Blue Mountains National Park

#### 4 Coolah Tops National Park 10,578 ha



**Highlights** Waterfalls plunge from the plateau heights. Giant grass trees and tall, open forest with stands of huge snow gums shelter abundant wildlife, including ghiders, wallabies, eagles and rare owls.

**Activities** The higher altitude offers cool walks throughout the year and amazing views northward towards the Liverpool Plains. There are plenty of opportunities for picnicking, as well as car-based, caravan (very limited) and backpack camping, with a choice of sites all at the western end of the park.

**Access** 30 km east of Coolah, along the Coolah Creek Road (unsealed sections). 4WD is necessary on some roads in the park, but camping areas at The Barracks and The Pines are 2WD accessible.

Mudgee, 6372 7199

#### 5 Giralang Nature Reserve 640 ha

**Highlights** The area was part of the Ophir goldfields and was first mined in 1851 — one of the earliest gold strikes in Australia. Casuarina forests line the riverbanks, interspersed with red stringy bark, white box, red iron bark and bundy box. Swamp wallabies and eastern grey kangaroos are common and spotted-tailed quolls have been sighted in the area.

**Activities** Access to some areas of the reserve is not easy and there are no facilities. However, you can spend the day exploring mining ruins along Summerhill Creek, where you might see a platypus or eastern water dragon, or following Dry Creek firetrail. Camping is not allowed.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Orange via the Ophir Road (take Millers Crossing and turn east for the last 2 km).

Bathurst, 6332 9488

#### 6 Goobang National Park 42,080 ha



**Highlights** Flora and fauna from eastern and western NSW overlap in a 55 km stretch of range and escarpment country, forming the far-western foothills of the Great Dividing Range.

**Activities** You can go picnicking, walking or backpack camping, and Caloma Trig lookout offers fantastic views of the surrounding countryside.

**Access** 30 km north-east of Parkes near Peak Hill, best accessed off the Newell Highway.

Forbes, 6851 4429

#### 7 Goulburn River National Park 70,323 ha



**Highlights** The wide, open floodplain of the Goulburn River snakes its way from west to east between dramatic sandstone cliffs pocked with caves. Emus, redneck wallabies, goannas, platypuses, and a rich selection of birdlife thrive among eucalypt woodlands.

**Activities** Areas of broad, sandy riverbank, often lined with river oaks, provide easy walking access to rugged scenery. Picnic sites and car-based camping are available along the Goulburn River at Spring Gully (2WD) and Big River (4WD recommended).

**Access** 45 km north-east of Mudgee, 20 km south-west of Merriwa. Access is mainly via unsealed roads through Merriwa, Mudgee or Sandy Hollow. Camping area access is via Wollar on Mogo Road (unsealed, dry weather only).

Mudgee, 6372 7199

### Looking for koalas, kangaroos or emus?

... occasionally cross the road. If you see one, you may see others. Koalas are not necessarily close near the sign, you might be lucky and see one at Cuddega Nature Reserve. Koalas are found in the Blue Mountains, Macquarie Nature Reserve at Fort Macquarie, North Coast (there's a koala hospital near the coast you can also visit). Generally if you want to take a koala home, the best place is a zoo.

edges onto a grassy patch, and sit still and watch.

... in country on the slopes and plains of western NSW. Grey kangaroos and red kangaroos are both on the large ... and you'll find them in some of the western parks — call local NPWS offices.

... beaches. There are large groups of ... in Glenbrook in Blue Mountains National Park. ... also live in coastal regions, particularly swamp wallabies (which are large and black) and red-necked wallabies (which are grey with a reddish patch at their back of the neck).

... Visitor Centre in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (call 9457 9853 for more details).





Sawn Rocks, Mount Kaputar National Park

## 8 Hill End Historic Site

134 ha



**Highlights** Hill End is a living village featuring intact goldrush streetscapes and buildings dating back to the 1860s. Preserved much as it was in its heyday, it's the perfect place to relive the early goldmining days of 19th century New South Wales. Hill End's landscape also played a significant role in Australian art, inspiring artists such as Russell Drysdale, John Olsen, Donald Friend and Brett Whiteley.

Central NSW

**Activities** Take a self-guided tour of the town starting at the visitor centre and museum. Bald Hill Tourist Mine is a popular attraction and tours of historic Craignoor House are available on the Australia Day and Easter long weekends. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Glendora or in the village itself (with six powered sites for caravans); camping areas have accessible toilets and showers with handrails. Camping fees apply.

**Access** 85 km north of Bathurst via Sofala (35 km unsealed), 72 km via Hargraves (30 km unsealed).

Hill End, 6337 8206

## 9 Hill End Visitor Centre

Hill End

Ph: 6337 8206



Situated in Hill End, the centre has an extensive exhibition of artefacts from the town's gold-rush era, and is the base for a number of tours. The shop has souvenirs and gold samples. Open 7 days, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 9 Koonadan Historic Site

22 ha



**Highlights** The Koonadan area is part of the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri nation, the largest Aboriginal group in NSW. In the late 19th century the community was forced to move to a mission, a story that's told in a display at the site's shelter.

**Activities** The NPWS has undertaken revegetation works around the area, and many bush tucker species can now be found on site. Visitors can also see the various bird species that inhabit the area.

**Access** 9 km north-west of Leeton via Cantrill Road (unsealed and may be difficult in wet weather).

Griffith, 6966 8100

## 10 Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area

1673 ha



**Highlights** The extinct volcano of Mt Canobolas rises to 1395 metres, the highest point between the Blue Mountains and Perth. Its slopes support some of the most diverse vegetation communities in the region and have many intriguing rock formations.

**Activities** There are seven walking tracks, a number of fantastic lookouts and two camping areas (Tea House and Federal Falls, both car-based camping with short walk from carpark; not suitable for caravans).

**Access** 17 km south-west of Orange via the Canobolas Way or Cargo Road.

Bathurst, 6332 9488

## 11 Mount Kaputar National Park 36,817 ha



**Highlights** Seventeen million years of erosion have sculpted the now-extinct Nandewar Volcano, forming an island of wilderness rising 1200 metres above the surrounding plains. Rocky outcrops offer breathtaking views and a diverse range of vegetation from semi-arid woodland to wet sclerophyll forest and subalpine communities cling to the mountain slopes. The region is a haven for threatened bats, birds, quolls and a unique large pink slug, which often appears after rain.

**Activities** Walking tracks range from short easy strolls to more difficult day walks or overnight treks. Picnic at Dawsons Spring in the subalpine area, take an easy walk along the Nature Trail through tall gums and snow grass or walk to the summit of Mt Kaputar. Car-based camping is available at Dawsons Spring or in the stringybark forest at Bark Hut. Camping areas have free barbecues, hot showers, toilets and fireplaces (bring your own firewood). Camping fees apply. Two cabins are available at Dawsons Spring (bookings required).

**Sawn Rocks** Australia's best example of the geological formation known as organ-piping, is in the northern section of the park (not accessible from the main part of the park). It's an easy walk and has wheelchair access, free gas barbecues, picnic tables and toilets. Waa Gorge offers a more difficult half-day walk.

**Access** The main part of the park is 50 km east of Narrabri on Mt Kaputar Road (head south-east out of Narrabri on Mantland Street). The road has unsealed sections and caravans are not permitted within the park as the road is steep and narrow. Sawn Rocks is 45 minutes from Narrabri on the Bingara Road, and Waa Gorge is 90 minutes from Narrabri along the Terry Hie Hie Road (both have unsealed sections). Waa Gorge access is through several gates on private property and may be closed after rainfall.

Narrabri, 6792 7300

Any questions call 1300 361 967



Winter snows in Mount Saddleback National Park

## 12 Mullion Range State Conservation Area

1025 ha



**Highlights** The striking combination of steep mountains and plateau areas forms part of one of the Bathurst/Orange region's extinct volcano systems. Native animals include gliders, possums, numerous bird species, and platypus, which are well established in Summer Hill Creek.

**Activities** There are two picnic areas, El Dorado and Fourth Crossing. Take the Water Race walking track from Fourth Crossing to discover remnants of the area's 1860s goldmining boom. Two walks along Summer Hill Creek feature splendid waterfall views.

**Access** 17 km north-north-east of Orange via the Ophir Road.

Bathurst, 6332 9488

## 13 Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve 5934 ha



**Highlights** 164 species of bird have been recorded in the reserve, including the endangered regent honeyeater, attracting birdwatchers from around the state.

**Activities** The Castle Rock walking track offers an easy 8 km return walk with stunning views from the sandstone 'pagoda' rock formations at the end of the track. The Mooriben picnic area (day use only) has tables and barbecues and a toilet. Honeyeater Flat camping area provides toilets and barbecues, book through Mudgee for large groups.

**Access** 30 km north-east of Mudgee. Entry is via sealed roads off the Mudgee Wollar Road.

Mudgee, 6372 7199

## 14 Nangar National Park 9196 ha



**Highlights** The horse-shoe shaped red silt stone cliff lines of the Nangar-Murga range is a landmark of the central west's rolling plains. The rocky slopes running down to Terrara Creek, forests rich in flowering shrubs and timbered hills form an important wildlife refuge in a landscape that has been largely cleared.

**Activities** Walks along the escarpment offer views out over patchwork farmland dotted with rocky remnants of natural bushland. There's car-based camping (no caravans) but no facilities. Many areas of the park are accessible by 2WD during dry periods, but 4WD is recommended for reaching the lookouts and in wet weather.

**Access** 50 km west of Orange. Best access is via the Eugowra-Orange road (turn off 10 km from Eugowra).

Forbes, 6851 4429

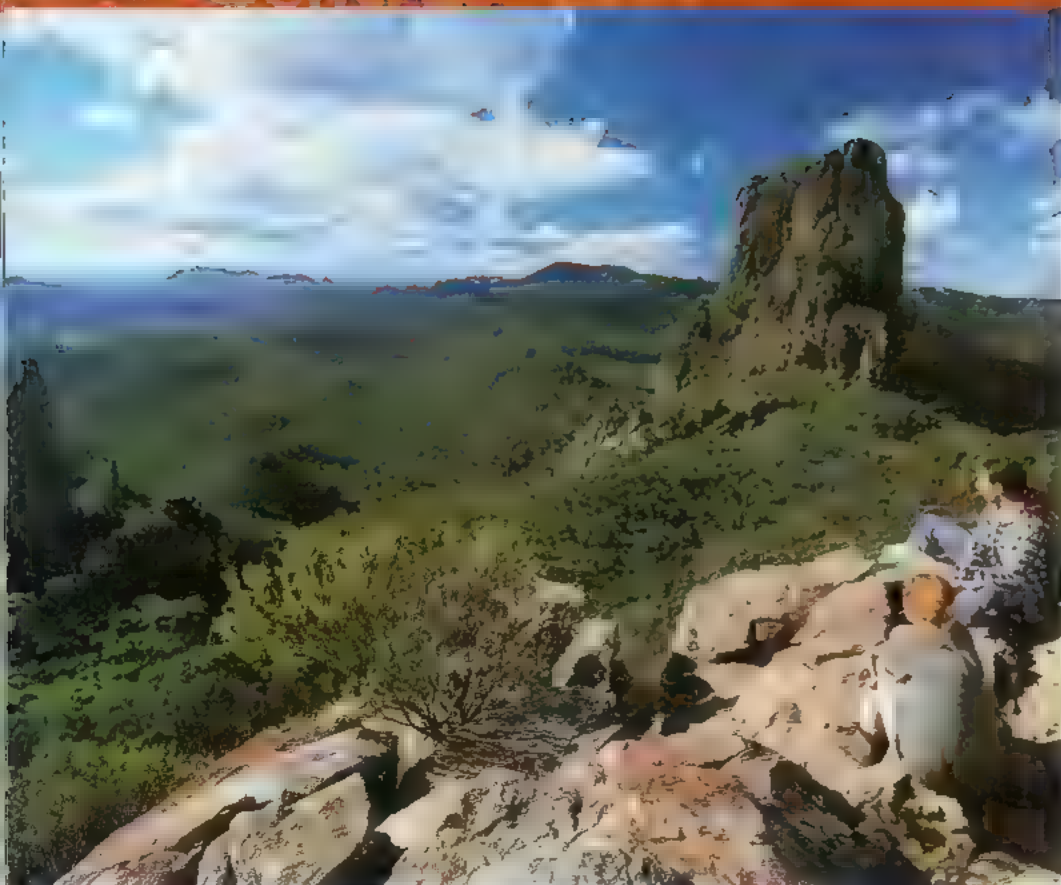
### When and where to find wildflowers

in different parks across the state

the NPWS, are available in Blue Mountains National Park (phone 4787 8877 for details).

Park and the lower Blue Mountains, and around October in the information.





Looking towards the Grand High Tops Warrumbungle National Park

### 15 The Rock Nature Reserve 347 ha



**Highlights** Known as Kengal to the local Wiradjuri people, The Rock towers 250 metres over the surrounding countryside, and is thought to have been a site for initiation ceremonies. The reserve is an island of natural habitat for native animals, including the turquoise parrot and glossy black cockatoo.

**Activities** If you're an energetic bushwalker you'll enjoy the climb to the top of the 3 km Yerong Nature Trail where, on a clear day, you can see Mt Kosciuszko and the Victorian Alps. The walk passes through a variety of vegetation communities, with signs guiding you through the changes and pointing out highlights. The recently refurbished picnic area on the lower slopes has toilets, a covered table, a gas barbecue area and a large carpark. There are no camping facilities but accommodation is available at The Rock village, other neighbouring towns or in Wagga Wagga.

**Access** 30 km south-west of Wagga Wagga off the Olympic Highway. A short all-weather, unsealed road connects the picnic facilities and carpark to the Lockhart Road Griffith, 6966 8100

Central NSW

### 16 Turon National Park, 2970 ha



NEW ENTRY

**Highlights** The open eucalypt forest and river oaks of historic Turon valley were once the site of one of the state's major gold-fields, and the area is rich in colonial and Aboriginal heritage. The river offers excellent trout fishing (licence required).

**Activities** There are opportunities for remote bushwalking (no formal tracks) and bush camping (4WD accessible, no facilities). The river offers swimming and canoeing when the water is high.

**Access** 150 km north west of Sydney, via Capertee on the Lochaber Road (unsealed 4WD)

Blackheath, 4787 8877

### 17 Warrumbungle National Park 23,198 ha



**Highlights** The combination of forested ridges, rocky spires and domes, deep gorges

and plenty of camping and visitor facilities make the Warrumbungles one of the state's most popular national parks.

**Activities** See ancient volcanic remnants from the Grand High Tops track, one of Australia's great walks. White Gum Look-out walk is a 1 km return bitumen track suitable for wheelchairs, with views of jutting peaks and the western plains. Guranawa track (less than 1 km return loop suitable for wheelchairs), leads down to Spirey Creek and provides good views of the old volcanoes, Siding Spring Observatory and flats. Walking tracks vary widely in grade and length — several are easy and well formed while others are steep and rough.

The volcanic cliffs are popular for rock climbing (not permitted on The Bread-knife; you'll need a permit elsewhere). Discovery walks, talks and tours are available in spring and autumn school holidays or to groups on request, these include walks to Tara Cave with a local Aboriginal guide, spotlight night walks, and children's activities. Camping is available at Camp Blackman, Pincham (walk-in) and several other sites. Book for large groups (phone 6825 4364). There are wheelchair-accessible toilets at Camp Blackman, Split Rock, the Woolshed and Canyon picnic area and showers at Camp Blackman.

**Access** 35 km west of Coonabarabran on John Renshaw Parkway, or 80 km north-east of Gilgandra via Gumin Road (unsealed section) \$6 per day vehicle entry fee

Coonabarabran, 6842 1311 or 6825 4364

### Warrumbungle National Park Visitor Centre

Coonabarabran  
Ph: 6825 4364



The centre has information on the campgrounds, walking tracks, geology, flora and fauna of parks in the area. The shop sells guidebooks, posters, postcards, gifts, ice, camping supplies, refreshments, tea and coffee. The centre and toilets are wheelchair accessible. Open 7 days, 9 am to 4 pm (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day).

Any questions call 1300 361 967

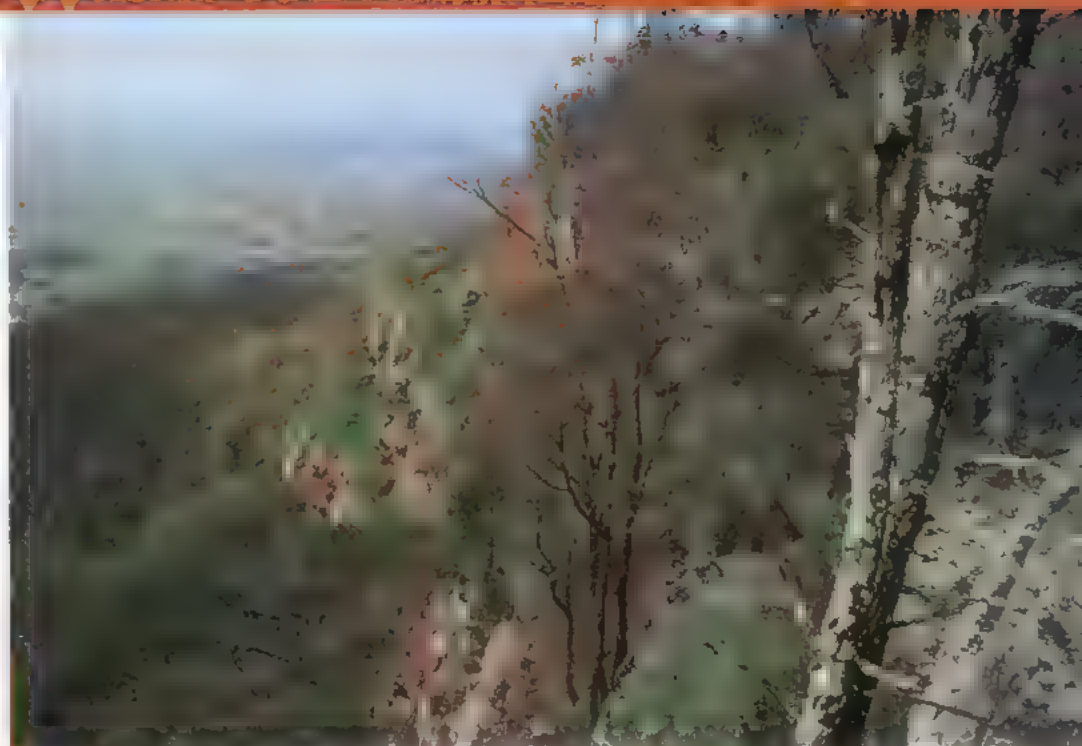
## 18 Weddin Mountains National Park 8361 ha



**Highlights** The striking crescent of cliffs and ridged gullies is reputed to be a bushrangers' haunt — Ben Hall cave is named for one of the area's most infamous rogues

**Activities** Take in the panoramic views from Eualdrie Trig, or just enjoy the abundant birdlife the park has to offer. There's car-based camping at Seatons and Holy Camp (via unsealed roads), with non-powered caravan sites at Seatons

**Access** 19 km south-west of Grenfell. There are clear signs off the Mid Western Highway  
**Forbes, 6851 4429**



LOOK UP AND DOWN THE CLIFFS OF WEDDIN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

### The Wildlife Shop, Bathurst

Level 2, 203–209 Russell Street, Bathurst Ph: 6332 9488



Situated off the main street, this shop has an information bay with park brochures, books, guides, T-shirts and a variety of Australian-made gifts for sale. Open Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm (closed public holidays).

### The Wildlife Shop, Forbes

83 Lachlan Street, Forbes Ph: 6851 4429

Based in the main street, with brochures and information on NPWS parks and the local area. There's a good range of publications, gifts and souvenirs promoting conservation and catering to all ages. Open Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm (closed public holidays)

## 19 Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave Historic Site 2 ha



**Highlights** Yuranigh guided surveyor Thomas Mitchell between 1845 and 1846 and the site of his grave is a unique combination of Aboriginal and European burial customs

**Activities** The headstone (which was erected in 1900 when Mitchell's original

stone had fallen to the ground) is surrounded by four trees carved according to Wiradjuri tradition. There's a gate about 600 metres from the site; make sure you close it after you pass through

**Access** 5 km south of Molong off the Mitchell Highway

**Bathurst, 6332 9488**

### Lace monitor

A lizard, the monitor, feeds on a goanna which darts up the nearest tree at its scolding speed, jumping upwards to a safe spot on the opposite side of the tree trunk. These massive lizards are protected from being by digging a hole in a termite nest and using the eggs. The monitors quickly cover the hole and the water is able to flow their way back out. The lace monitor is found in eastern and central NSW and other states.



## 4-wheel driving in parks and reserves

For more information on 4-wheel driving in parks and reserves, visit the NPWS website at [www.npws.gov.au](http://www.npws.gov.au). The website provides a comprehensive list of parks and reserves that offer 4-wheel driving opportunities, along with details on the types of vehicles allowed, driving routes, and any specific regulations or permits required. The website also features information on the various recreational activities available in these areas, such as hiking, fishing, and birdwatching. For those interested in 4-wheel driving, the website is a valuable resource for planning their trip and ensuring they have all the necessary information.

more than 1250 areas of bushland and the recreational activities available in each. The website also provides information on the various recreational activities available in these areas, such as hiking, fishing, and birdwatching. For those interested in 4-wheel driving, the website is a valuable resource for planning their trip and ensuring they have all the necessary information.

website



# Outback NSW

Outback NSW tells the story of the immensity of human history in a landscape of open desert, sparkling lakes and ancient stone sculpted by wind and time. Aboriginal rock art lines the caves and overhangs of Mt Grenfell and Mutawintji. The restored homestead at Willandra dates to the mid 19th century, and further west Mungo's woolshed was built by Chinese labour in the 1860s. Coolabah trees shade the creek beds, great red kangaroos roam the plains, birds flock to the precious wetlands and the new Paroo-Darling National Park spans two of the state's great rivers. Plants and animals survive long, dry periods, springing to abundant life after the rains. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/outback](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/outback)



## 1 Culgoa National Park

22,006 ha



**Highlights** Sit under the shade of the coolibah trees flanking the floodplain of the Culgoa

river, watch the passing bustards, falcons, honeyeaters and cockatoos or the kangaroos and emus on the open grass plains.

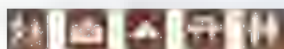
**Activities** Walk along the riverbank through coolibah woodlands or over sandhills carpeted in wildflowers following spring rains. A small camping and picnic area, suitable for car-based and caravan camping,

is being developed along the river bank (few facilities, phone for details).

**Access** 100 km north of Brewarrina or 180 km north east of Bourke. Unsealed dry-weather roads only. Obtain directions before visiting the park.

**Bourke, 6872 2744**

## 2 Gundabooka National Park 63,903 ha



**Highlights** Mt Gundabooka rises to 500 m among the rust-coloured cliffs, gorges and hills of the Gundabooka Range. The region is of great significance to the local Ngemba people and the range has a history of ceremonial gatherings and rock art.

**Activities** Facilities are being developed. Dry Tank has a small camping and picnic area that's accessible by car and is large enough for a caravan. A 2.4 km walking track leads from the site through mulga woodlands to nearby Little Mountain, where you can look out over the northern escarpment of the Gundabooka Range. A new day-use area is being developed at Bennetts Tank which will ultimately be a stepping-off point for a trek to the top of Mt Gundabooka.

**Access** 50 km south of Bourke off the Kidman Way (dry weather only). You must book and obtain directions before visiting the park. Use of generators is not permitted. Bourke, 6872 2744



Rock art site, Dry Tank, Gundabooka National Park

## 3 Kinchega National Park 44,260 ha



**Highlights** An area of glittering lakes in a dry landscape, with waterbirds living among its backwaters and drowned forests. Massive river red gums gather at the banks of the Darling River, which forms the eastern boundary of the park.

**Activities** Explore the Aboriginal sites and European structures, such as the Kinchega Woolshed. Car-based or caravan camping is available at the rest area near Lake Cawndilla, beside Emu Lake or along the river. Camping fees apply. You can also stay in the old shearers' quarters (bookings required).

**Access** 111 km south-east of Broken Hill along the road to Menindee. Unsealed roads, closed when wet. \$6 per day vehicle fee.

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200

## 4 Mount Grenfell Historic Site 1357 ha



**Highlights** Hundreds of Aboriginal paintings in reds, yellows and ochres colour the rock overhangs of Mt Grenfell.

**Activities** The three main art sites are within easy walking distance of the carpark, or take the 5 km Ngampaa walk, which reveals the breathtaking scenery of the area.

**Access** 40 km west of Cobar along the Barrier Highway, then 32 km of unsealed road north (impassable after rain).

Cobar, 6836 2692

## 5 Mungo National Park 88,637 ha



**Highlights** The Willandra Lakes World Heritage area, with Mungo National Park at its centre, maintains a continuous record of human occupation stretching back well over 60,000 years. Rain and wind has uncovered ancient fireplaces and hearths, as well as calcified plant matter, artefacts, stone tools and animal bones. At the 33 km long crescent of the Walls of China, erosion has sculpted the sand and clay into dramatic formations.

**Activities** The visitor centre is open every day. A self-guided 70 km driving tour provides an opportunity to explore a large area of the park. Stay at the shearers' quarters (bookings required) or one of two car-based camping areas (with room for caravans). A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk gives access to views of the Walls of China. Short walking tracks have signs that highlight a variety of features within the park.

**Access** 110 km north-east of Mildura via Buronga along the Arumpo Road, or 147 km north-west of Balranald. All roads are unsealed and are impassable after rain. A detailed information package is available from the office or the NPWS website. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Buronga, 03 5021 8900





## 6 Mutawintji Historic Site

486 ha



**Highlights** The site, which in 1998 was the first to be returned to its traditional Aboriginal owners, contains one of the best collections of Aboriginal rock art in NSW

**Activities** Entry is by Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council guided tour, leaving the campsite at 11 am on Saturdays and Wednesdays from April to October. Contact the Broken Hill Tourist Information Centre (08 8087 6077) for information on commercial tour operators with access to the site. Walking tracks are of medium-grade and unsuitable for wheelchairs

**Access** 130 km north-east of Broken Hill, turn east off the road to Tibookurra. In wet weather the road closes, so check on conditions before travelling

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200



## 7 Mutawintji National Park 68,912 ha



**Highlights** The rugged, mulga-clad Byngano Range is dissected by colourful gorges, rockpools and creek beds lined with red gums. Scattered among the caves and overhangs are galleries of Aboriginal rock art and engravings. The park was returned to its traditional owners in 1998 and is held on their behalf by the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council

**Activities** Car-based and caravan camping are available at Homestead Creek (no bookings — first in, first served, no fuel or firewood available). Backpack camping is permitted within the Mutawintji Wilderness Area, with self-registration required (forms available from the Broken Hill NPWS office). Camping fees apply at the campsite. An Aboriginal Discovery Program featuring bush tucker, billy tea, Aboriginal art and kids' activities runs during all school holiday periods except summer

**Access** 130 km north-east of Broken Hill, turn east off the road to Tibookurra. In wet weather the road closes, so check on conditions before travelling

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200

Development is ongoing so phone for updates on available facilities

**Access** The park is in a number of separate sections and can be accessed from several points; 80 km north of Wilcannia along the Wanaaring Road; 60 km east of Wilcannia along the Bourke Road; 20 km east of White Cliffs along the Mandalay Road or 80 km east of Wilcannia along the Barner Highway. Roads closed when wet

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200

## 9 Sturt National Park

310,634 ha



**Highlights:** An enormous arid landscape of space and solitude. The rolling red-sand dunes of the Strzelecki desert ripple through the western section, graduating past surprising wetlands surrounded by white sands. Flat-topped mesas and fantastic views characterise the central Jump-Up country. Remnant gidgee woodland, the catchment system of the ephemeral Twelve-Mile Creek and gibber and grass-covered plains dominate the east, while 450 million year old granite tors surrounding Tibookurra form part of the southern boundary of the park.

**Activities:** Enjoy the self-guided loop drives accessible by 2WD or go 4WD trekking along the Middle Road, passing through uniquely diverse landscape with lookouts along the way providing magnificent views

Any questions call 1300 36, 967

### Yellow-billed spoonbill

Spoonbills wade slowly through shallow water, sweeping their long bills from side to side to capture insects and other food. Yellow-billed spoonbills congregate every year at wetlands across most of Australia, including those protected at the new Paroo-Darling National Park.



## 8 Paroo-Darling National Park and State Conservation Area

230,000 ha

**NEW ENTRY**

**Highlights** The west's newest park has a wide range of ever-changing landscapes, including the perennial lakes of the Paroo Overflow, the floodplains of the central Darling River and active mound springs that support an endangered ecological community and the salt pipewort

**Activities** Facilities are still pretty basic, but you can drive through the park, stopping to observe the abundant wildlife, or walk one of the many tree-lined creeks. Over 75 km of public-access roads traverse the park





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# Save time and money with an **annual pass**

## A GREAT GIFT IDEA



**I**t only takes a few visits to NSW national parks to discover that you are much better off with an annual pass. It's more convenient and more economical, and you can choose the most suitable pass for you.

	One-year pass	Two-year pass
<b>Single Country Park Pass</b>		
any ONE designated national park in country* NSW except Kosciuszko	\$20	\$35
<b>Country Parks Pass</b>		
all national parks in country* NSW except Kosciuszko	\$40	\$70
<b>Multi-Park Pass</b>		
all parks except Kosciuszko	\$60	\$105
<b>All Parks Pass</b>		
all parks in NSW**	\$80	\$140

\* Single Country Park and Country Parks passes are not valid in parks charging vehicle entry fees in the Sydney area east of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

\*\* Additional All Parks Pass: you can also obtain a 50% discount on additional passes for cars registered at the same address. Contact the National Parks Centre.

NSW Seniors Card holders are entitled to a 20% discount on all annual passes. NSW Pensioner Concession Card holders and NSW EDA, Intermediate and Special Rate pensioners are entitled to an exemption card that gives them free entry into all NSW national parks. Contact the National Parks Centre for more information about these discounts and exemptions.

### Cheaper and more convenient

If your favourite country park has a vehicle entry fee of \$6 per day it may well be worth buying a Single Country Park Pass for \$20. Or, if you visit a number of parks each year, an All Parks Pass at \$80 may be best for you (see table below). Once you've bought your annual pass you won't need to pay as you enter a park.

### Comparison with daily fees

Daily vehicle entry fees vary from park to park. Many parks and reserves have no entry fee, but the popular parks such as Kosciuszko, Royal and Ku-ring-gai Chase do have a fee, which varies from \$6 to \$15. How much you save depends on which parks you visit and how often you visit them. Remember that if you stay for more than one day you must pay a vehicle entry fee for each day (unless you have an annual pass).

### Are camping fees included?

No. Camping, museum, Discovery and other fees are extra, so you will need to pay them even if you have an annual pass or have paid the daily vehicle entry fee.

### What is the money used for?

Your support directly assists the upkeep of facilities, running of conservation programs, pest control and protection of historic sites.

### How can I get an annual pass?

You can order an annual pass by mail, fax, phone or online—see the coupon below for all these options. You can also drop in to any major NPWS visitor centre and buy a pass.

Name:.....  
Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other First name Surname

Address:.....

Suburb State Postcode Phone

### Yes I would like to order an annual pass:

1 year 2 year (Please tick:)  
☐ \$20 ☐ \$35 Single Country Park Pass\*

Designated park:.....  
Check in this guide for fee-charging parks

☐ \$40 ☐ \$70 Country Parks Pass\*  
☐ \$60 ☐ \$105 Multi-Park Pass  
☐ \$80 ☐ \$140 All Parks Pass

Vehicle registration number to appear on annual pass: .....

### Method of payment:

☐ Cheque. Please make your cheque or money order payable to National Parks & Wildlife Service.  
☐ Credit card. Please charge my card as indicated. ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard ☐ MasterCard

Name on card:.....

Cardholder's signature:..... Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card number .....

Card number

### Options:

- Mail this form to the National Parks Centre enclosing a cheque or credit card details
- Fax the form to the National Parks Centre with credit card details
- Phone the National Parks Centre (have your credit card details ready)
- Order online—[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)
- Take this form to the National Parks Centre or major NPWS visitor centres

National Parks Centre, PO Box N429, Grosvenor Place NSW 1220 (102 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney); ph 1300 361 967 or 02 9253 4600; fax 9251 9192



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## Abbreviations

NP—National Park  
NR—Nature Reserve

SCA—State Conservation Area  
HS—Historic Site  
AA—Aboriginal Area

MP—Marine Park  
RP—Regional Park

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# Contact us



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## **NORTHERN RIVERS**

### **ALSTONVILLE**

Colonial Arcade  
75 Main St, Ph: 6627 0200

### **GRAFTON**

Level 3, 49 Victoria St, Ph: 6641 1500

### **KYOGLE**

136 Summerland Way, Ph: 6632 0000

### **LORD HOWE ISLAND**

Lord Howe Island Board, Ph: 6563 2066

### **Murwillumbah**

Cnr Alma St. & Tweed Valley Way  
(shared with World Heritage Rainforest Centre)  
Ph: 6672 6360

## **NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS**

### **ARMIDALE**

85-87 Faulkner St, Ph: 6776 0000

### **GLEN INNES**

68 Church St, Ph: 6732 5133

### **WALCHA**

188VV North St, Ph: 6777 1400

## **HUNTER & MID NORTH COAST**

### **ARAKOON**

Arakoon State Recreation Area  
Cardwell St, Ph: 6566 6621

### **BULGA**

Hunter Range Office  
2156 Putty Rd, Ph: 6574 5275

### **COFFS HARBOUR**

32 Marina Drive, Ph: 6652 0900

### **DORRIGO**

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre  
Dome Rd, Ph: 6657 2309

### **MUDGE**

Shop 1, 160 Church St, Ph: 6372 7199

### **NELSON BAY**

12b Teramby Rd, Ph: 4984 8200

### **PACIFIC PALMS**

Booti Booti National Park, Ph: 6591 0300

### **PORT MACQUARIE**

152 Horton St, Ph: 6586 8300

### **SCONE**

137 Kelly Street, Ph: 6540 2300

## **SYDNEY & SURROUNDS**

### **AUDLEY**

Visitor Centre  
Royal National Park  
Farnell Ave, Ph: 9542 0648

### **BLACKHEATH**

The Heritage Centre  
Govetts Leap Rd, Ph: 4787 8877, Fx: 4787 8514

### **FORESTVILLE**

Garigal National Park  
Ferguson St, Ph: 9451 3479

### **GOSFORD**

Suites 36-38, 207 Albany St North  
Ph: 4320 4280 Camp bookings: 4320 4203

### **HARTLEY**

Harley Historic Site, Ph: 6355 2117

### **HORNSBY**

Kalkari Visitor Centre  
Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park  
Mt Colah, Ph: 9472 9300  
or Bobbin Head Information Centre  
Ph: 9472 8949

### **KURNELL**

The Discovery Centre  
Botany Bay National Park  
Cape Solander Drive, Ph: 9668 9111

### **LAKE MUNMORAH**

Elizabeth Bay Drive, Ph: 4358 0400

### **LANECOVE**

Lane Cove National Park  
Lady Game Drive, Ph: 9412 1811

### **PARRAMATTA**

Level 1, 10 Valentine Ave, Ph: 9895 7420

### **RICHMOND**

Bowmans Cottage  
370 Windsor St, Ph: 4588 5247

### **SYDNEY HARBOUR/LA PEROUSE**

(For Sydney Harbour National Park, and  
Bare Island Fort and La Perouse in  
Botany Bay National Park.)  
Sydney Harbour National Park  
Information Centre  
Cadmans Cottage, 110 George St,  
The Rocks, Ph: 9247 5033

### **WINDSOR**

Scheyville National Park  
Scheyville Rd, Ph: 4572 3100

### **WOLLONGONG**

4/55 Kembla St, Ph: 4225 1455

## **SOUTH COAST & HIGHLANDS**

### **BOMBALA**

153 Maybe St, Ph: 6458 4080

### **BUNGONIA**

Bungonia State Recreation Area  
Lookdown Rd, Ph: 4844 4277  
(Infoline 4844 4341)

### **FITZROY FALLS**

Nowra Rd, Ph: 4887 7270

### **JINDABYNE**

Snowy Region Visitor Information Centre  
Kosciuszko Rd, Ph: 6450 5600

### **KHANCOBAN**

Khancoban Information Centre  
Scott St, Ph: 6076 9373

### **MERIMBULA**

Cnr Merimbula and  
Sapphire Coast drives, Ph: 6495 5000

### **MINNAMURRA**

Minnamurra Rainforest Centre  
Minnamurra Falls Rd  
via Jamberoo, Ph: 4236 0469

### **NAROOHA**

Cnr Field St & Princes Hwy, Ph: 4476 2888

### **NOWRA**

55 Graham St, Ph: 4423 2170

### **QUEANBEYAN**

6 Rudedge St, Ph: 6299 2929

### **TUMUT**

7 Adelong Rd, Ph: 6947 7025

### **YARRANGOBILLY CAVES**

7 km off Snowy Mountains Hwy, Ph: 6454 9597

## **CENTRAL NSW**

### **BATHURST**

The Wildlife Shop  
Level 2, 203-209 Russell St, Ph: 6332 9488

### **COONABABRAN**

30 Timor St, Ph: 6842 1311  
or Visitor Centre  
Warrumbungle National Park, Ph: 6825 4364

### **FORBES**

83 Lachlan St, Ph: 6851 4429

### **GRIFFITH**

200 Yambil St, Ph: 6966 8100

### **HILL END**

Hill End Visitor Centre, Ph: 6337 8206

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1/160 Church St, Ph: 6372 7199

### **NARRABRI**

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### **OBERON**

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## **OUTBACK NSW**

### **BOURKE**

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For more information on your national parks and the activities available in them, you can phone the National Parks Centre for the price of a local call (mobiles excluded), by dialling:

**1300 361 967**, or visiting [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)